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President: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES: COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED CONTAINING REQUESTS TO BE GIVEN RECIPIENT STATUS

1. Mr. GOMEZ (Asscciate Administrator) said that communications had been received from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Tajikistan containing requests to be given recipient status. Upon approval of those requests, the Administrator would proceed to establish indicative planning figures (IPFs) for those countries, with the exception of Georgia and Tajikistan, for which IPFs had already been calculated and reported to the Council in document DP/1992/22. The new IPFs would be reported to the Governing Council at its fortieth session.

2. The requests for recipient status fell into two categories: countries for which IPFs would be established for the first time during the fifth programming cycle and countries for which new IPFs were sought but which had previously formed part of countries with existing fifth-cycle IPFs.

3. Since the beginning of the cycle, recipient status had been accorded to 13 countries emerging from the former Soviet Union. Requests had since been received from Georgia and Tajikistan, subsequent to their becoming States Members of the United Nations. If recipient status was approved for those countries, the total number of new recipient countries established during the fifth programming cycle would come to 15. In accordance with Governing Council decision 92/30, only 80 per cent of the amounts already established for Georgia and Tajikistan ($784,000 and $6,133,000 respectively) would be available as IPFs for the four remaining years of the cycle.

4. The second category of countries included the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia. For the Czech Republic and Slovakia, a lack of basic economic data had prevented the establishment of IPFs thus far. Programming activities would proceed on the basis of tentative IPF figures, which, based on the best available estimates, were approximately $1.5 million for the Czech Republic and $1 million for Slovakia.

5. In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia, it was once again impossible to calculate national IPFs. It should be noted that, in accordance with Governing Council decision 92/27, UNDP-financed development activities in the former Yugoslavia had been suspended while ongoing humanitarian and relief activities were being financed from unspent IPF resources carried forward from the fourth cycle.

6. By June 1993, when all the requests would have been submitted to the Council, the total net increase in country IPFs might range from $7 million to $8 million. A complete list of the IPFs and the status of resources allocated would be provided to the Council at its fortieth session for review and guidance as required.

7. Mr. KAYUMOV (Observer for Tajikistan) said that after becoming independent on 9 September 1991, Tajikistan had been recognized by more than 100 countries and was now a full Member of the United Nations. However, it would need time to become fully aware of its own interests and opportunities in the area of multilateral cooperation.

8. Tajikistan, a mountainous country, possessed great mineral wealth and energy resources that ranked second among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Despite its enormous resources, it had been the most backward of the Soviet Republics and had been treated as a supplier of raw materials to other parts of the Union. During its transition from a command to a market economy, Tajikistan had suffered from wrenching civil conflict: its economic and social development plans had been disrupted, its housing stock had been severely damaged, export earnings and imports had declined sharply while the country's external debt had soared. That difficult period had reduced it to the level of the least developed countries.

9. The Government's development priorities were: to revitalize the national economy by rebuilding the fibre and silk, food, chemical and metallurgical industries using clean technology, to develop power generation, mining and tourism and to guide the economy according to market principles.

10. The legitimate Government of Tajikistan and its concerted efforts to restore stability were supported by the overwhelming majority of the people, and the international humanitarian assistance provided through the United Nations system and other donors was of great importance in that regard. Full national independence for Tajikistan would be gained only through profound economic change, and for that the country absolutely required the support of the international community. Accordingly, his delegation appealed to the Governing Council to grant Tajikistan recipient status.

11. Mr. TURK (Observer for Slovenia) said that, as a newly independent country in transition to a modern market economy, Slovenia sought rapid integration into the world economic system. The United Nations could help a great deal in that process.

12. Slovenia had certain advantages in infrastructure and managerial experience that should ease its transition to a market economy. The restructuring and privatization of the Slovenian economy had begun and would no doubt be hastened by the new privatization programme. The country's favourable balance of payments could also foster restructuring and economic growth. Foreign trade had been liberalized, the fiscal system had been adapted to European standards and the Government was actively encouraging foreign investment.

13. Slovenia was highly interested in continuing and expanding its cooperation with UNDP, which would be facilitated by the granting of recipient country status. That status would allow Slovenia to be included in UNDP projects at the regional and other levels and would serve as a proper point of

(Mr. Türk, Observer, Slovenia)

departure for developing national programmes. Slovenia would not only participate in cooperation programmes as a recipient country but could also share its own experience of privatization and economic transition with other countries through regional programmes and projects undertaken by UNDP, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the European Community and other organizations. It was his delegation's firm belief that the relatively small resources to be granted to Slovenia by UNDP could soon prove to have a considerable multiplier effect at the regional and international levels.

14. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Governing Council) said that the representative of Georgia had not been able to attend the meeting; however, the text of a statement by the Georgian Prime Minister was available to members.

15. Mrs. SCHÄFER-PREUSS (Germany) asked the Associate Administrator whether the IPF allocations for new countries would exhaust the reserve.

16. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator) recalled that the IPFs for Tajikistan and Georgia had already been given to the Council and that only 80 per cent of the amounts originally indicated was now being proposed. Allocations for the Czech Republic and Slovakia and, probably, for countries of the former Yugoslavia would result in a net increase in resource requirements. Thus when the new IPFs became available, it was likely that the $100 million programme reserve would be exhausted if not exceeded. A full accounting would be provided at the fortieth session, in June 1993.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THE BALTIC STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (DP/1993/5)

17. Ms. WYRSCH (Switzerland), speaking on a point of order, suggested that the discussion of the item should take the form of a dialogue between members and the Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, rather than the reading out of prepared statements. New documents containing a great deal of important information had just been issued, and members wished to have an opportunity to respond spontaneously and directly.

18. Mr. HELMKE (Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States) said that the nations that had emerged out of the former Soviet Union had faced severe deterioration in their social, economic and political conditions since the thirty-ninth session of the Council. Five of those countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Tajikistan - currently required humanitarian aid and other forms of special international assistance, even though many delegations at the previous session had considered them among the countries not requiring priority attention.

19. There was an increasing awareness of the close link between the economic aspects of reform and the transition to democracy and participation. Even

(Mr. Helmke)

large financial institutions had realized that their efforts to introduce a market economy would be in vain without progress in democratization and political stability. In some countries, the results of local elections had already put economic reforms on hold.

20. The Governments confronting those crises were still inexperienced in that area and had turned to UNDP in particular to help them identify the nature of linkages between the two aspects of the transition and design measures to strengthen those linkages. Such measures enhanced the credibility of reforms and decreased the pressures inherent in transition.

21. Discussions begun at the previous session of the Governing Council on opportunities for an integrated and coordinated approach by the entire United Nations system had been pursued in the Economic and Social Council and in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, and significant progress had been achieved in recent months. An agreement had been concluded with the World Bank and Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan which gave UNDP a leading role in national capacity-building for foreign aid management in those countries. UNDP would execute joint projects in that area, co-financed from several sources, including the World Bank. In addition, a formal agreement would soon be concluded between UNDP and ECE on key economic reform programmes in the region. More joint efforts at the regional level were expected, including the incorporation of ECE technical staff into field offices for special assignments. Lastly, a new type of cooperation agreement between UNDP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) had been approved, and UNDP project staff and Bank staff had begun work on a technical assistance programme aimed at making enterprises eligible for EBRD financing.

22. Programme development in the region had been a priority since the thirty-ninth session. Some 28 missions to all countries had provided inputs for the programming process, and five "short-term country strategies" were already in use, with the first country framework for Azerbaijan also nearing completion.

23. The countries of the region perceived an urgent need to assume responsibility for managing their own foreign aid programmes. In September 1992, aid-coordination officials from 14 countries of the former Soviet Union had met in Warsaw to exchange experiences. Participants had acknowledged that UNDP had indeed played a major role in building national capacity to manage foreign assistance effectively in support of the transition and had requested that the Programme should pursue that activity in the new recipient countries, combining it with regional approaches and an active exchange of experiences. A number of prototype projects in areas of concern to most countries in transition had been developed.

24. Because of the complete restructuring of the public sector and reorientation to support the emerging private sector, the Management Development Programme was active in the region. Seven missions to new

(Mr. Helmke)

recipient countries had been carried out and detailed programmes had been developed. Some 18 new projects, totalling over $3 million, had been formulated, 9 of which had already been approved and implemented.

25. The integration of the countries of the region into the world economy would be greatly facilitated if they resumed a degree of cooperation among themselves. That was a sensitive issue, yet many of the immediate problems could not be resolved strictly on a country-specific basis. UNDP and other specialized agencies had begun to develop integrated packages for regional or subregional cooperation in such areas as trading on international commodity markets, small business management, protection from radiation and safety of nuclear power plants.

26. Mr. MARKER (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, expressed serious concern at the way in which Governing Council decision 92/43 had been interpreted and implemented by UNDP. The Council had authorized UNDP to open a limited number of temporary national and/or regional UNDP offices in the countries concerned. However, the opening of offices in 9 of the 13 countries at the end of 1992 and the scheduled opening of offices in the remaining countries in early 1993 appeared to exceed the mandate given in that decision and reflected neither its letter nor its spirit.

27. Funds in the amount of $3 million had been earmarked in the decision to enable the Administrator to give effect to the decision by opening a limited number of offices. Yet according to document DP/1993/5, an amount of $4.6 million had been committed. Part of that amount would be reimbursed from the United Nations regular budget for its share of the interim offices, part would be reimbursed by recipient Governments and part would come from contributions in kind. The reimbursement from the United Nations had not been approved by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, however, and financing of the offices was uncertain. Blurring the distinction between administrative and programme costs by using IPF resources for administrative purposes set an unwelcome precedent. Furthermore, the system-wide approach both in the common field presence and in programme matters had not yet led to significant cost-sharing or joint programming arrangements.

28. The European Community and its member States had the impression that UNDP had devoted much more attention to setting up field offices throughout the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States than to country strategies and integrated approaches. They urged the Administrator to ensure that decision 92/43 was implemented in the manner intended.

29. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Observer for Kazakhstan) said that immediately after acceding to independence, her country had taken active measures to become integrated into the world economy and was currently striving to maintain a stable economic situation during the transition to democracy and a free-market system. Kazakhstan was establishing the legislative basis for new forms of

(Ms. Arystanbekova, Observer, Kazakhstan)

economic management and carrying out reform measures aimed at privatization, the training of personnel and developing medium-sized enterprises. In that effort, her country was actively cooperating with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, EBRD and other international organizations and was counting on support from the United Nations system.

30. UNDP could provide valuable assistance in national capacity-building and human-resources development. In view of the need to set up national institutions for the effective management and utilization of foreign assistance, her Government was interested in the possibilities for developing joint programmes with UNDP, particularly in the areas of management training and developing small enterprises. Accordingly, the physical presence of UNDP in Kazakhstan was very important, and a United Nations/UNDP office in Alma Ata would promote effective use of United Nations assistance as well as democratic and economic reforms.

31. Dealing with countries of the former USSR on a regional basis was essential in order to avoid duplication of effort and integrate the region into the world economy. However, the IPFs for the countries of Europe, which included Kazakhstan, did not reflect the current situation because they failed to take account of the emergence of some two dozen new recipient countries after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. She therefore hoped that the Governing Council would take those new circumstances into consideration in drawing up its budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

32. In promoting a safe and stable world, the United Nations must use its available resources justly and equitably. Kazakhstan therefore supported the Programme's approach to the newly independent States, which took account of the needs of the developing countries. The successful integration of the States of the former USSR into the world economy would be instrumental in normalizing the global economic situation and create new possibilities for mutually advantageous international economic cooperation.

33. Mr. ATABEKOV (Observer for Kyrgyzstan) said that his Government attached great importance to UNDP technical assistance. The agreements concluded between the two sides in 1992 would provide a good framework for cooperation. Aware of the economic and social challenges it faced, the Government of Kyrgyzstan had recently established relations with the Bretton Woods Institution and had made an extremely promising beginning towards its programme of economic and social reform.

34. Industrial output, consumption and income generation had declined sharply in Kyrgyzstan in 1992, and that decline was expected to continue in 1993. Direct financial support of nearly $500 million was required to promote economic recovery. Support for government efforts to meet the challenges of reform was also greatly needed. Coordinated assistance from the United Nations could be used to help formulate a country strategy for human development, determine the priority sectors of the economy and create an environment enabling a rapid transition to a market economy.

(Mr. Atabekov, Observer, Kyrgyzstan)

35. Price increases for all essential goods and services coupled with a credit crisis caused by continued dependence on the central bank of the Russian Federation for currency supply had made living conditions in Kyrgyzstan very difficult. The abrupt drop in output and demand was beginning to result in unemployment, previously unknown in the country. The agricultural sector, accounting for 40 per cent of total economic output, was key to economic recovery, and plans were under way to enhance privatization of State farms. Strengthening of the banking sector and price liberalization were other important aspects of the economic reform process.

36. The adjustment of government structures to the new situation was critical for a smooth transition; among the Government's priorities was the retraining of managers and professionals in public administration, finance and economic management. In order to lay an appropriate foundation for foreign investment, the Parliament had passed legislation intended to create an environment favourable to investment.

37. Kyrgyzstan had been granted recipient status in 1992. The Government viewed 1993 as the critical year in the country's transition to a market economy, and, as the political situation had remained relatively stable, joint efforts to advance the reform programme should proceed without delay. His Government looked forward to a significant flow of assistance from the international community that would be used to lay the foundations of a new Kyrgyzstan.

38. Mr. KUDRYAVSTSEV (Russian Federation) said that he fully supported the request by a number of the newly independent States, particularly Tajikistan and Georgia, for recipient country status. His delegation endorsed the proposed UNDP strategy, which was based on a comprehensive approach to assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States and designed to support the reforms under way in Commonwealth countries. One of the most important elements of that strategy was the establishment of integrated United Nations offices, which would make it possible to ensure interdepartmental coordination at the necessary level. His Government also agreed with the conclusions set forth in paragraphs 16 to 19 of the report of the Administrator (DP/1993/5), including the use by the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States of an expanded network approach to manage resources and the regionalization of some of the administrative support.

39. His country was interested in the speedy establishment of an integrated United Nations/UNDP office in Moscow and felt that the same criteria and requirements should be applied to the Russian Federation as were applied to the other recipient countries located in the territory of the former USSR.

40. Account should be taken of the fact that the Russian Federation, owing to its economic difficulties, was in the same situation as the other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. Its relationship with UNDP therefore should be based on the approach used for the

(Mr. Kudryavstsev, Russian Federation)

other countries concerned. In view of the limited IPF resources available to those countries and the Programme's orientation towards the needs of the developing countries, the creation of special-purpose funds for accumulating additional resources to support assistance programmes for the States of the region was an important element of the strategy under consideration.

41. In drafting a cooperation agreement with UNDP, his Government had set up a working group to draw up a five-year country programme focusing on privatization, the establishment of a free-market infrastructure, the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, personnel management and training, environmental measures and attracting foreign investment. Much attention was being given to participation in UNDP regional programmes. Under the regional programme for Europe, Russia had become involved in projects to train personnel in management, privatization and environmental protection in the coal industry, and consideration was being given to participation in similar projects in other areas.

42. Russia was also interested in regional cooperation with countries in the Asian and Pacific region. In that connection, he underscored the long-term importance of the programme for the development of the Tumen River basin and said he hoped that UNDP efforts to stimulate regional cooperation in that area of north-east Asia would be further pursued. Lastly, his country also wished to participate in a number of interregional and global UNDP projects, where contributions by Russian organizations and specialists might prove useful.

43. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator) recalled that General Assembly resolution 47/199 had called for the operational activities of the United Nations development system in new recipient countries to be undertaken on the basis of an integrated and cost-effective approach and for the governing bodies of the various elements of the system concerned to submit progress reports. However, it was not apparent whether a statement of programme budget implications had been prepared in connection with the adoption of the resolution, an exercise which would have allowed the organizations and agencies concerned to have estimated the costs involved. If no statement of programme budget implications had been adopted, the Secretary-General would have to absorb the cost of implementing the resolution from within existing resources for the biennium 1992-1993.

44. The Governing Council would appreciate that the amount involved was modest in the context of the transactions between the United Nations and UNDP, which normally resulted in a net flow towards the United Nations of several million dollars a year. If the Secretary-General could not absorb the costs, the only alternative would be to withdraw the staff generating them. Nevertheless, given the overall level of transactions between the United Nations and UNDP, the Government Council could be assured that it was not advancing funds rashly.

45. Mr. HELMKE (Director of the Division for Europe and the commonwealth of Independent States) said that core resources of some $10 million, in the form of IPFs, were available for the countries concerned as a group. There were also indications that the United States Government was prepared to make an additional $10 million available on a bilateral basis for trust funds for the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States, while contributions to trust funds of some $5 million were expected from other donors. Further, $7 million had been set aside for the profitability project undertaken with EBRD. Several projects and regional packages which should generate further financing were also under consideration, and indications of support had already been received, including, for the first time, support from the private sector.

46. The development of an integrated approach required a presence in the country, since adequate coordination could not be otherwise guaranteed. UNDP was also investigating the new modality of trilateral cooperation for developing countries, designed to use the material resources of the East and the financial resources of the West for the benefit of the countries of the South. Lastly, UNDP wished to promote capacity-building for the management of aid and the mobilization of resources by national institutions with a view to increasing the absorptive capacity of recipient countries, which, for example, in the case of Kyrgyzstan, was currently only 9 per cent. A relatively modest training initiative in that area would result in much greater utilization of funds which had been earmarked but which did not actually flow to recipient countries.

47. Mrs. SCHÄFER-PREUSS (Germany) said that her delegation endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the European Community and acknowledged the efforts by UNDP to establish an innovative and cost-effective approach for the programmes in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States. However, while document DP/1993/5 provided much information on programme activities, the policy concept underlying many of the initiatives begun in recent months was not clear. Conference room paper DP/1993/CRP.1 provided a better indication of the direction UNDP cooperation with other agencies and the countries concerned was taking. UNDP should consider placing still greater emphasis on policy advice in the field of economic management and on donor coordination. In general, UNDP should focus its scarce resources on those areas where it clearly had a comparative advantage.

48. Regarding organizational matters, it had not been the intention of the Governing Council to open a field office in every country and it seemed to her delegation that other alternatives were available. UNDP should actively pursue the concept of joint offices with other United Nations organizations. Her delegation was opposed to the use of IPF funds for administrative costs, even on a reimbursable basis. More information on cost-sharing arrangements with the United Nations Secretariat would be welcome. She would also welcome updated information on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. Lastly, she trusted that UNDP would continue its country and programmatic focus and maintain the underlying financial and administrative framework.

49. Mr. GOUMENNY (Observer for Ukraine) noted with satisfaction that UNDP had made significant progress in implementing Governing Council decision 92/43. Ukraine greatly appreciated the Programme's efforts to set up integrated United Nations interim offices under the leadership of resident coordinators in the countries concerned and supported the all-round approach aimed at involving an increasing number of United Nations agencies in the implementation of technical assistance programmes. The presence of the United Nations in each of the newly independent States was of fundamental importance in that regard. Unfortunately, because of a lack of resources, the Organization's presence was still minimal and totally inadequate to the tasks to be carried out.

50. His Government attached great importance to the implementation of international technical and advisory assistance programmes in Ukraine. It had established a national centre for that purpose which was actively cooperating with many international organizations, including UNDP. The establishment of an integrated United Nations Interim Office in Kiev had opened up new opportunities in that field. On the whole, his Government was satisfied with the work of the office, which had helped draw up the country's first umbrella project. It was hoped that the project would enhance national management of technical assistance programmes and help the Government devise a national strategy for multilateral and bilateral technical assistance. The office had already taken steps to organize advisory assistance in designing training programmes for management personnel, reforming the financial sector, privatization and establishing institutional mechanisms to attract foreign investment and make use of certain specialized agencies to assess the social effects of economic reforms. His Government supported UNDP activities aimed at organizing training courses in Kiev in the area of small business management and looked forward to participation in the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN), United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR) and United Nations Volunteers programmes.

51. Nevertheless, the level of technical assistance provided through UNDP did not correspond to the current situation in the country. Ukraine was in the midst of an economic crisis characterized by severed economic links, low productivity and hyperinflation. It was essential to combine administrative and economic management methods. His Government intended to convert State enterprises into joint-stock companies and promote the general development of commercial activity by supporting small- and medium-sized businesses. It was also necessary to reform the procedures governing foreign economic activities, attract foreign investment and restructure the monetary system. The international community, particularly UNDP, was in a position to help Ukraine carry out those tasks. He hoped that such assistance would be substantial and both technical and financial in nature, in order to achieve stable economic development, solve the country's acute social problems and overcome the effects of the Chernobyl disaster.

52. Ukraine supported the prompt establishment of trust funds for the Baltic States and Commonwealth of Independent States, but also believed that the

(Mr. Goumenny, Observer, Ukraine)

Programme should make more effective use of its own unique possibilities in order to convince donor countries of the need to execute projects in the region. Greater use should also be made of the international monetary and financial institutions and the resources of other organizations of the United Nations system for that purpose.

53. Lastly, he wished to stress that the development of operational activities in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States would not be detrimental to existing programmes for developing countries. As Ukraine and the other countries of the region restructured their economies, their contribution to the development of international cooperation with developing countries would grow.

54. Mr. YEGOROV (Observer for Belarus) said that, in its activities in his country, UNDP had developed innovative approaches that were in keeping with the new conditions in the region. The establishment of United Nations Interim Offices would enable the Organization and the Programme to provide effective assistance to Belarus in the early stages of its transitional period. He noted with satisfaction that the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States was following innovative approaches in the management of limited resources. His Government, in accordance with its obligations, was doing its utmost to create the most favourable possible conditions for the work of the integrated United Nations Interim Office in Minsk.

55. UNDP and the office were helping to set up a full-scale State infrastructure for managing foreign trade. National personnel were being trained through international training structures and networks. The office was providing all-round assistance in solving the problems resulting from the Chernobyl disaster by organizing the delivery of medicine and coordinating the programmes of other United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

56. It was particularly important that the office, together with other international institutions such as the World Bank and EBRD, was actively helping to attract investments to finance various infrastructure-development projects. He hoped that the bold initial steps taken by the United Nations and UNDP in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States would be supported by the international community.

57. Mr. SNEGUR (Observer for the Republic of Moldova) welcomed the decision to establish a UNDP office in his country. In view of the country's economic and political problems, his Government regarded the United Nations presence as a guarantor of a peaceful transition to a market economy and a stable society based on democratic principles. His Government hoped that the resident coordinator, who had recently arrived in the Republic of Moldova, could play an active role in the United Nations observer mission which would be sent there within a few weeks.

(Mr. Snegur, Observer, Moldova)

58. Unfortunately, many Governments and international organizations had formed an inaccurate picture of the situation in his country; it was to be hoped that the presence of UNDP staff would have a positive effect in that regard.

59. For countries such as his, which had few natural resources and limited access to world markets, the UNDP approach, consisting of reorienting transition processes towards human development, was of great importance. The environmental thrust of UNDP projects would also help the Republic of Moldova overcome the consequences of long-term neglect in that area.

60. Mr. SUCHMAN (Czech Republic) said that his country greatly appreciated UNDP efforts to promote the economic and social development of all countries. Multilateral development cooperation had become an integral part of overall development efforts and had achieved significant results in a number of countries. In accordance with Governing Council decision 92/43, UNDP was endeavouring to strengthen its coordinating function within the United Nations development system.

61. In 1993 his country would undertake national project execution for the first time. His delegation supported the request by the new recipient States for assistance under a broad range of UNDP programmes. At a time when the Central and Eastern European countries were endeavouring to transform their political and economic systems, his Government was seeking to expand its cooperation with UNDP, as it was convinced that UNDP could play a positive role in the promotion of privatization, management development, the reorganization of public administration and the training of specialists in the fields of environmental protection, telecommunications, social policy and safety strategies.

62. Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that the majority of countries in the region which were endeavouring to transform their economies were constrained by inadequate resources, the lack of technical skills, obsolete technologies and production structures, restricted access to international markets, environmental problems and so on. The success of their efforts would depend largely on a firm commitment by developed countries and international organizations to support the reform process, as the General Assembly had recognized in its resolution 47/187.

63. His delegation endorsed the strategy proposed in document DP/1993/5 and specifically agreed that: there was a need for a coordinated and integrated approach by the United Nations system; the most apporopriate and effective manner in which the United Nations could be of assistance to those countries in the early phases of the transition would be through establishing a field presence in each country, although limiting UNDP offices to only a few countries would be discriminatory; programme development should proceed from short-term strategies to the elaboration of country programmes, containing both the element of transition support and medium-term development; the transition to a market economy and the transition to democracy were closely

(Mr. Barac, Romania)

linked; and lastly, that human development was an indispensable element of the infrastructure for future development and an element for making the burden resulting from the transition bearable to the most disadvantaged groups in each country.

64. Mr. RYSINSKI (Poland) said his delegation agreed that in order for the United Nations to provide support to the transition process, in the countries of the former Soviet Union, it must have an active physical presence in those countries. While UNDP should be given scope to develop its ideas and activities, the Council should avoid engaging in micro-management, which it might be tempted to do because of the scarce resources earmarked for those countries.

65. He drew attention to General Assembly resolutions 47/187, which recognized the need for the international community to support economic reforms and restructuring in the economies in transition, and 47/199, which recognized that the United Nations system had a role to play in assisting countries undergoing deep economic and social reforms, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the operational activities of the system in new recipient countries were undertaken on the basis of an integrated, unified, cost-effective and innovative approach to development cooperation and presence in the countries concerned. In the light of those resolutions, UNDP must be allowed to give operational content to the priorities which the General Assembly had established, and UNDP and the General Assembly must not work at cross purposes with each other.

66. United Nations activities should be seen in the context of an overall effort to support the transition in Europe. The potential for regional activity had already been noted, as shown by the Warsaw workshop on aid management for the countries of the former Soviet Union, organized jointly by Poland and UNDP in September 1992. His country saw the need for a continuing exchange of ideas and experience and was prepared to provide expertise and institutional support for that purpose. The task of formulating concrete proposals might be entrusted to the UNDP office in Warsaw following consultations with regional partners and taking into account any recommendations which the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States might wish to make.

67. In view of the limited resources available, efforts should be made to establish new and equitable forms of regional cooperation, as noted in paragraph 45 of document DP/1993/5.

68. Mr. SHOJI (Japan) said that his Government had taken a number of steps to provide assistance to the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States from sources other than official development assistance (ODA). In October 1992, for example, it had decided to provide the Commonwealth of Independent States with $100 million in humanitarian emergency assistance. It had also decided to provide training over the next three years to 300 candidates from five Central Asian republics.

(Mr. Shoji, Japan)

69. By combining its strengths with those of other development agencies, UNDP clearly had a role to play in providing assistance to the countries concerned. Document DP/1993/5 properly emphasized the importance of capacity-building in such areas as aid management, as well as the need to take into account the interrelationship between the transition to a market economy and the transition to democracy. Document DP/1993/CRP.1 provided useful information about the specific contribution UNDP could make on the basis of its comparative advantages. It was unclear, however, what volume of resources would be required if tangible results were to be achieved, and whether it was realistic to project such results, in view of the limited funds available to UNDP. His delegation would welcome the holding of informal consultations to clarify those and other questions relating to document DP/1993/CRP.1.

70. Document DP/1993/5 mentioned that joint integrated country missions by several agencies had already been sent to the Baltic States. However, he wondered whether joint missions involving UNDP had been sent to countries other than the Baltic States and what steps had been taken to ensure joint programming by the organizations of the United Nations development system. His delegation believed that the Joint Consultative Group on Policy would provide a suitable mechanism for joint programming. It was discouraging that so little had been accomplished in that area by UNDP and the system as a whole. His delegation requested the Administrator to organize a meeting of UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations system, including, as a minimum, the other members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, so that all States could discuss the matter and take concerted action to achieve integrated presence and joint programming.

71. The implications of the Secretary-General's decision to establish United Nations Interim Offices in six countries of the former Soviet Union to be headed by staff from the Department of Public Information as resident coordinators, must be carefully studied. The Administrator's proposal to open UNDP offices in 9 of the 13 countries concerned appeared to be in conflict with Governing Council decision 92/43, which provided that such offices should be temporary and limited in number. His delegation regretted that the concept of a regional approach appeared to have been discarded and that the Council's clear instructions had not been followed.

72. In December 1992, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had assigned ODA status to the five countries of the Central Asian region of the former Soviet Union on the ground that their income level, living standards and other development indicators were similar to those of low- or middle-income developing countries. His delegation urged the Council to take that factor into account and in reviewing the UNDP approach to those countries and to make appropriate recommendations as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

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Special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 18 February 1993, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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The activities of the United Nations Development Programme in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THE BALTIC STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (continued) (DP/1993/5)

1. Mr. BABA (Observer for Uganda) said that his delegation fully supported the efforts being made by the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States to transform their economies. The achievement of prosperity and stability in the region would be of benefit to all countries, including those of the developing South.

2. At the same time, the development of the region must not be carried out at the expense of the countries of the South. While it was fitting that the newly independent countries should increasingly turn to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for help in reorienting their transitions and that the United Nations should come to their aid, additional resources must be mobilized for that purpose, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 47/199. No clear statement had yet been made that the resources being allocated to projects in Europe were not being diverted from other programmes. The problems faced by the countries in transition were different from those affecting the developing countries. Organizations like UNDP that were engaged in operational activities had a specific mandate to provide assistance to developing countries, and especially to the least developed among them. Core resources were not intended to address issues of a political and transitional nature, however pressing they might be.

3. Those concerns had been raised during the triennial policy review at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and had been reflected in the resolutions adopted at that time. As UNDP considered an across-the-board reduction of 25 per cent of the indicative planning figures (IPFs) for the country programmes of developing countries, such concerns took on greater significance.

4. The countries in transition would be greatly assisted if the resources for their transformation were demand-driven. If those countries had access to world markets for their products, they would, because of their advanced economies, be able to generate their own resources. The developed countries had a special responsibility in that regard.

5. Mr. HELMKE (Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States) said he had taken note of the German and Japanese suggestions that UNDP should pursue a programme approach and should develop further activities in areas where the multilateral system enjoyed a comparative advantage. In reply to the questions from Germany and Denmark concerning participation by other United Nations agencies in the costs of establishing integrated United Nations Interim Offices in the countries concerned, he said that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme had expressed an interest in sharing the UNDP office in Tashkent.

(Mr. Helmke)

6. Replying to the questions raised by the representative of Japan at the previous meeting, he said that resources on the order of $100 million per year would be sufficient to allow UNDP to make an impact in the region. The three-tier resource model that was being proposed would take $10 million from IPFs each year to provide $40 million for the Trust Funds, which in turn were expected to yield $50 million a year in product-specific resources. With regard to joint programming missions to the Baltic States, the first such endeavour had involved the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and UNDP. Missions by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) had taken place within the framework of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy. Five United Nations agencies had participated as a team in the Consultative Group meetings organized by the World Bank in December 1992. UNDP would continue to promote the idea of establishing subgroups of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy which would operate at the technical level. As to special arrangements for the five Central Asian countries to which the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had assigned official development assistance (ODA) status, longer-term programming for those countries would begin at a much earlier stage, and a more tailored approach to resource mobilization would be adopted.

7. Turning to the statement made by the observer for Uganda, he said that some of the resources which were being mobilized for approved programmes had been identified in document DP/1993/CRP.1, and others would be detailed in future progress reports.

8. Mr. BLUKIS (Observer for Latvia) said that active cooperation between his Government and UNDP had begun in July 1992, when a logistics mission had been sent to his country. The UNDP Resident Representative had arrived in September; by December a cooperation agreement between his Government and UNDP had been signed and local costs and permanent office space had been identified. Latvian foreign aid officers had participated in three training events and were gaining valuable experience through their daily contacts with the Resident Representative. During the autumn of 1992, the country had received five missions focusing on reforms in the public and private sectors and population issues. Two follow-up reports had been submitted, and recommendations had been made to the Latvian Government.

9. Questions had been raised in the Governing Council as to whether the establishment of a large number of UNDP offices in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States was in keeping with Council decision 92/43. Having participated in the negotiations leading to the adoption of that decision, he wished to emphasize that his delegation could not have supported the measure had it not understood that the provision in paragraph 8 for a limited number of offices was based on financial considerations. Paragraph 11 clearly stated that $3 million would be provided for the establishment of those offices, while paragraph 13 envisaged the possibility of using extrabudgetary resources to support UNDP activities in the countries concerned.

(Mr. Blukis, Observer, Latvia)

10. A distinction should be made between the extremely small IPFs of countries like Latvia and the much higher IPFs of traditional recipients. His Government had agreed to the use of IPFs to launch UNDP activities in Latvia not in an effort to solve the administrative problems of UNDP, but in order to speed up resource mobilization and enable training and programme development to begin at a much earlier stage.

11. Ms. DAMUŠIS (Observer for Lithuania) expressed concern at the cautious response of some Council members to the UNDP activities undertaken in the Baltic States and Commonwealth of Independent States. Lithuania believed that such activities were in keeping with Governing Council decision 92/43 and that a field presence was a prerequisite for developing country-specific strategies and an integrated United Nations approach. Her delegation endorsed the views expressed at a previous meeting by the representative of Romania, who had noted that the denial of such a presence to any of the countries concerned would constitute discrimination.

12. Cooperation between her Government and the United Nations had been enhanced by the presence of a temporary UNDP office in her country. Since the arrival of the UNDP Resident Representative in October 1992, a number of activities had been undertaken. Nine missions had been sent to Lithuania, including a UNFPA mission on maternal health and health education, a mission from the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and a joint agency mission on food security assessment. Strategies were currently being developed to set up programmes in those areas. Training programmes were also being prepared for diplomats, managers of small enterprises and non-governmental organizations. Three Baltic aid coordinators had received induction training at UNDP headquarters in March 1992, and an additional training seminar had been held in September, organized by UNDP and the Polish Government.

13. With regard to the mobilization of additional resources for the Trust Fund for the Baltic States, the UNDP office in Vilnius had established contact with all the diplomatic missions of the countries belonging to the Group of 24 and had been represented at all local meetings of donors during the period under review. Given Lithuania's critical needs during the early stages of transition and the limited resources available to the country under decision 92/43, her Government had welcomed the use of reimbursable IPFs to begin programme development until sufficient extrabudgetary resources could be generated. The Danish Government had already pledged $835,000 for that purpose.

14. Two IPF-funded projects, both of the "umbrella project" type, were in preparation and were expected to be approved in March 1993. One would fund short-term expertise through a combination of modalities and the other would finance other programme support activities.

15. Mr. LUNDBORG (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, expressed those countries' concern at the late distribution of certain documents.

16. The Nordic countries, recognizing the enormous challenges which the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States were facing, were supporting the transition process in those countries by providing them with funds from outside their development assistance budgets. The Nordic countries were also aware of the major role played by other bilateral and multilateral organizations in providing assistance to the region. If the United Nations system was to play such a role, its comparative advantages must be clearly identified and an integrated strategy must be developed.

17. Document DP/1993/5 showed that UNDP had disregarded the stipulation in Governing Council decision 92/43 that only a limited number of offices should be established in the region. Efforts appeared to be concentrated on establishing as many offices as possible, rather than on developing programmes in the poorest countries as a matter of priority.

18. It was unclear how the UNDP offices would be financed, as the Fifth Committee had postponed a decision to allocate funds to cover part of their costs. Document DP/1993/5 indicated that IPFs would be utilized for the partial funding of some of the offices. At the Council's thirty-ninth session, the Nordic countries had expressed doubts regarding the use of IPFs for UNDP administrative purposes, and they continued to object to such arrangements. At that session the Nordic delegations had also emphasized that concrete plans must be worked out by UNDP in conjunction with other United Nations agencies, yet only general indications of future activities had been provided.

19. The Nordic countries believed that UNDP must give priority to the poorest countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States. While welcoming the presentation of a short-term strategy for the Baltic States, he wondered when such a strategy would be developed for the Commonwealth of Independent States.

20. Mr. RADE (Netherlands) noted that his remarks should be taken as complementing those made by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the European Community. His delegation still had a number of questions concerning UNDP activities in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States.

21. A key element of Governing Council decision 92/43 was the expressed need for a unified United Nations approach to the region. While the information provided to the Council did refer to the coordination efforts made by the United Nations, the World Bank and other bodies active in the region, it was not very specific as to the results achieved. Nine months after the adoption of the decision it was reported that a subgroup of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy to deal with joint programming was "under consideration"; that hardly reflected a very active attitude. His delegation therefore wished to

(Mr. Rade, Netherlands)

receive more information on concrete results of the cooperation with other United Nations organizations, and especially with UNICEF.

22. With regard to financial questions, his delegation had serious doubts as to the use of IPFs or programme resources to finance administrative posts. It also wanted to know the provenance of the approximately $30 million mentioned in the report of the Administrator (DP/1993/5) as available for programming purposes. He wondered what UNDP would do if, contrary to expectations, the General Assembly, meeting in a resumed session, did not approve a contribution from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations field presence. Finally, he would be interested to know the amount of the resources allocated to the countries concerned from special programme resources (SPRs).

23. Drawing attention to the table contained in the annex to the report and particularly to column 14, he said it was hard to see how UNDP had taken into account the Governing Council's wish for priority to be given to the countries with the lowest gross national products (GNPs) and the highest IPFs. His delegation still encouraged UNDP to develop a presence as soon as possible in those countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States that had been labelled developing countries by the OECD Development Assistance Committee. It did not, however, see a substantial role for UNDP in the other countries of the region, in view of the need to focus the Programme's limited resources on the poorest countries. Accordingly, his delegation continued to have doubts about the opening of UNDP offices in those countries of the region that were, relatively speaking, better off.

24. Ms. VOLKOFF (Canada) noted that there was a great deal of involvement in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States on the part of bilateral and multilateral agencies, but also of representatives of the private sector. While UNDP should seek out those areas where it had a comparative advantage in determining its approach to the region, she wondered whether that advantage had been defined narrowly enough. There might be a need for a United Nations presence in a majority of the Commonwealth and Baltic States, but it was debatable whether it ought to take the form of UNDP offices. The Programme's first priority should be the region's least developed countries.

25. Privatization and industrial restructuring were the key to the development of the region, but it was not evident that UNDP enjoyed a comparative advantage in every case; a more rigorous approach to the development of priorities was needed. The offices being opened in many countries should be unified United Nations offices and should enjoy a large measure of decentralization.

26. Canada had noted with interest that UNDP recognized the obstacles to regional and subregional approaches. A number of delegations from the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States had advocated the concept of regionalization at the current session. Canada would not favour

(Ms. Volkoff, Canada)

adding a separate regional component to the already rapidly increasingly field presence, but innovative regionalization might be appropriate in specific instances and, as in the case of information systems, might serve UNDP as a model for other parts of the world.

27. Mr. HELMKE (Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States) said that the Administration had known in December, when the documents for the current session were being prepared, that there would be subsequent changes in the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States that might affect the timely preparation of documents. Nevertheless, every effort would be made to supply members with the most up-to-date documentation possible.

28. Replying to the representative of Sweden, he said that short-term strategies had been prepared for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and were in preparation for Azerbaijan; other cases were under study.

29. Results of UNDP cooperation in the region would be reported as soon as they were achieved; UNDP did not want to report anticipated results. The practice of making periodic reports and holding frequent informal consultations would be continued. A joint UNDP/United Nations document on the operation of integrated offices, with emphasis on budget management, would be made available as soon as possible.

30. The holding of joint meetings with other agencies active in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States was certainly a possibility; they might be held during the informal consultations following the current session.

31. With respect to the volume of SPRs allocated for the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States, he drew attention to document DP/1993/CRP.1, which indicated that the total was $500,000.

32. In the matter of determining which countries were the poorest, things were in a state of flux; many countries once considered better off were now at the bottom of the heap. Armenia was a case in point: UNDP would not have been able to assist Armenia under the guidelines of a few years before, but such assistance was now urgently needed.

33. The question of whether UNDP comparative advantage could most profitably be applied to a limited number of countries was a difficult one. In offering assistance selectively, UNDP, and some countries, might lose the benefit of the Programme's efforts to build an integrated, expanded network. Perhaps it was best to promote regional coordination by all means possible in that geographical area, where it was so difficult to achieve. It was not immediately feasible to regionalize administration; however, UNDP could promote activities that addressed problems not easily solved at the country level.

34. Mr. BORJA DE MOZOTA (France) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of Switzerland regarding the interaction between the Administration and members of the Governing Council. He welcomed document DP/1993/CRP.1, which provided a useful account of activities on a country-by-country basis.

35. The problem facing the Council was how to initiate UNDP involvement in Eastern Europe. If it was to be done on the basis of ODA status, only the five republics of Central Asia would qualify. If, as seemed to be the case, all the countries created from the former USSR were to be assisted, the requests of each country should be analysed individually. However, to ensure better inter-agency coordination the current situation must be studied carefully. Such coordination was being presented as a fait accompli, but more information was needed. Similarly, the cases of the four countries where integrated United Nations Interim Offices existed should be studied in detail in order to assess the results of the first experiments.

36. France questioned the role played by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in programmes in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. ECE had been active in the region long before UNDP, and yet its experience was not being utilized. Regional administrative support could possibly be undertaken by the Commission, and the wide-area network (WAN) referred to in paragraph 16 of document DP/1993/5 might better be located at ECE headquarters at Geneva, where extensive databases on the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States already existed.

37. The activities described in paragraphs 22 and 25 seemed to assign UNDP responsibility for administering the assistance provided by the European Community, inter alia. He wondered whether UNDP was really the right agency for that job. His delegation believed that UNDP should concentrate on providing assistance for democratization, rather than for the privatization of economies, which many other institutions were already dealing with.

38. In paragraph 41, transition support was stated to be temporary by nature. Such statements should be viewed by the Council with caution, given the permanence of many bodies within the United Nations system.

39. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Denmark. The United Kingdom would judge UNDP by its performance in implementing programmes in its areas of comparative advantage. Unfortunately, UNDP had not concentrated sufficiently on coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system, despite strong instructions to do so.

40. Mr. MONROE (United States of America) acknowledged the need for focus in implementing programmes in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. The area of focus chosen by UNDP, however, seemed to duplicate that of other donors. UNDP should select those activities in which it had a distinct advantage relative to other international sources of assistance and avoid establishing long-term dependencies.

(Mr. Monroe, United States)

41. United States assistance was designed to support the development of democratic political structures and free-market economies; it was therefore focused in areas where genuine reform was under way. Within that focus, the United States had placed the highest priority on collective engagement and cooperation with regional and international institutions. It had established regional offices of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine. It was working to improve coordination mechanisms, ensure a reasonable division of labour and reduce duplication of effort, and consequently urged UNDP to participate fully in the new Consultative Group meetings chaired by the World Bank.

42. The Administrator's report (DP/1993/5) stated that United Nations assistance would be supplemented by roughly $500,000 from recipient Governments to support local office costs. Had UNDP received firm written commitments to that effect? His delegation would also like to learn more of the proposed UNDP strategy to promote interregional cooperation, including the proposed timetable.

43. Mr. TRAXL (Austria) said that UNDP could not be selectively involved but, owing to its universality and neutrality, must respond to the requests and needs of all IPF countries on the basis of set rules. However, Austria had requested UNDP to develop an innovative strategy based on a coordinated approach to both administration and programming. Its guiding principles should be cost-effectiveness, versatility, and temporary involvement.

44. Efforts to rationalize some administrative support further should continue as soon as resources became available. Capacity-building in the countries of the region had to be the centre of UNDP activities; nevertheless, Austria welcomed the Programme's efforts to counteract the diversion of resources from the South to the East. Finally, his delegation shared the view that the transition to a market economy and the transition to democracy were indivisible.

45. Ms. WYRSCH (Switzerland) noted that the resources devoted by UNDP to the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States accounted for only 0.5 per cent of all IPF resources for the fifth programming cycle; the fate of UNDP did not hinge on such sums.

46. More importantly, the debate seemed somewhat unrelated to the actual concerns of those countries. The programme under discussion was an ambitious, attractive one, but seemed unrealistic in the current situation. Many cooperation partners were already active in the countries concerned, and she regretted that UNDP had not been able to identify clearly its own niche there.

47. She thanked the observer for Latvia for the information he had provided. The presence of international assistance professionals was of great benefit to Latvia's own workers. She wondered, however, whether there was any need for such assistance to be provided by a UNDP office. Furthermore, if such

(Ms. Wyrsch, Switzerland)

services were provided to relatively well-off Latvia, how could UNDP refuse to do the same for the poorest countries?

48. Document DP/1993/CRP.1 reflected a concern for integration, but the argument was not especially convincing, given the current state of coordination. As part of the reform taking place in the United Nations it had been proposed to establish a centre at Vienna to deal with States in transition. Did UNDP know of that plan, and was it involved in it?

49. Lastly, she noted that remarkable results had been obtained in Latin America with very small IPFs, and she wondered whether that experience might not be of use in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States.

50. Mr. HELMKE (Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States) said that the conference room paper would be updated and that the topic would be further developed as more information regarding the results of UNDP activities in the region became available. The issue of coordination had been raised repeatedly, and the UNDP secretariat felt that it could best be achieved by building up from country-specific situations. He welcomed the effort of the Governing Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies to utilize a top-down approach; the secretariat and the field staff, however, sought to identify demand-driven situations of real need and build up from that point. He hoped that a combination of the top-down approach proper to governing bodies such as the Governing Council and the bottom-up approach would yield the desired results.

51. Replying to the representative of France, he noted that cooperation with ECE was not traditional. In the present instance, country-specific concerns had been addressed in four ways. First, joint advisory missions had taken place in countries where ECE had a comparative advantage. Second, UNDP and ECE had conducted joint activities for the retraining of technicians and professionals in such areas as statistics, national accounting and energy. Third, region-specific packages were being developed jointly for areas of common need. Finally, staff had been seconded to serve as short-term resources and to provide professional input. Specific documents would be made available on regional efforts in such fields as nuclear safety.

52. The representative of the United States of America had referred to the need to focus on comparative advantage. The secretariat intended to promote country-specific programmes with a global thrust. Using the degree of government commitment to reform as another criterion for activities in addition to GNP was an idea that could indeed be very practical. Standard agreements for the local office cost contributions by recipient Governments had been signed with nine countries, corresponding closely to the pace at which offices were being opened.

53. Many speakers had referred to regional cooperation as a high priority. As soon as resources became available for regional activities, the secretariat

(Mr. Helmke)

intended to move ahead with programmes similar to those existing at the country level. As the representatives of Austria and Sweden had noted, regional adminstrative support centres would indeed provide economies of scale. No funds had been available in 1992-1993 for their establishment, but they would be useful and cost-effective, and the matter would be kept under review.

54. As the representative of Switzerland had noted, a "niche" reflecting comparative advantage needed to be clearly identified and occupied. Complementarity of activities was a concern, however. In spite of the great variety of donors, many subjects mentioned in the conference room paper had been given no consideration. It was not his intention to impose programmes from the top down, but to start at the counterpart level. If integrated approaches had their origin in the recipient's perspective, they would be much easier to manage with limited resources.

55. Mr. DE SAN (Deputy Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States), replying to the representative of France, said that ECE was a major partner in efforts to respond to the needs of the region. ECE was actually a node in the wide area network (WAN) from a technical standpoint. As to whether the network could be installed on ECE premises, a specific location was required only for the technical purposes of sending and receiving data, transmitted by satellite, as opposed to the creation of a management hub, which would eventually be required for the management of information. Ultimately, a decision would have to be taken regarding the location of such a hub.

56. Mr. NASRI (Pakistan) said that his Government supported technical cooperation activities in Central Asia and was participating in them through technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). Those activities included special courses in subjects such as banking, the English language, and international relations and diplomacy. The Government had also opened 60 places in its medical shcools to students from the Central Asian republics and had joined with other countries of the region in funding feasibility studies for cooperation programmes.

57. His Government believed that UNDP assistance should be directed to the neediest new republics, particularly in Central Asia, and that such assistance should not be at cost to the developing countries, but should be provided through additional resources. With regard to the trilateral cooperation mentioned in paragraph 38 of the Administrator's report, the expertise to be provided by countries of the former Soviet Union should be identified. His delegation had previously proposed trilateral arrangements involving procurement from developing countries, which would avoid the diversion of resources from the South to the East.

58. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that the issue of UNDP activities in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States was important not only to

(Mr. Mongbe, Benin)

the States directly concerned, but also to African countries, who had good reason to be interested in the way in which the Council addressed the issue. His delegation understood the good intentions of UNDP in providing assistance to the emerging economies in the former Communist States of Eastern Europe. The report of the Administrator (DP/1993/5) indicated that contributions in cash and in kind had been mobilized in order to conduct activities in the greatest possible number of countries and that a target of $100 million had been established to assist the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States. That worthy objective should indeed receive the support of the international community, so long as it did not conflict with the goals, no less worthy, set in various United Nations resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolution 47/199. UNDP activities in Eastern Europe should not adversely affect activities such as the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and Capacity 21.

59. Mr. KUKAN (Slovakia) said that his country was facing needs and priorities similar to those described in the programme for the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Despite its geographic location in the heart of Europe, Slovakia needed to create new ties both to Europe and to the world. The separation of the Czech Republic and Slovakia had been carried out peacefully, but the new State administration must be built up and political, economic and cultural ties strengthened while the country moved from a State-dominated economy to one oriented towards the private sector and markets.

60. UNDP activities were one source of connection to the world economy and world environmental policy. The cooperation activities with European financial institutions and other United Nations bodies mentioned in the Administrator's report reflected the needs of all new republics, including Slovakia. Political, economic, environmental and humanitarian problems were closely interrelated and could only be resolved comprehensively through joint efforts.

61. Mr. FONDI (Italy) said that his delegation supported the views expressed by Denmark on behalf of the European Community. United Nations action in the transition countries in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States should be integrated and complement that being considered bilaterally and in the European context. UNDP should thus aim to develop joint programmes involving the United Nations system as a whole and act as a facilitator in project identification, design and implementation. It was also important to stimulate human resources development in the transition countries. United Nations action along those lines would be useful and could attract additional financial contributions.

62. Mr. NOVRUZOV (Azerbaijan) said that his delegation had appreciated the importance of UNDP cooperation on joining the United Nations in 1992. The establishment of a UNDP presence in Azerbaijan was particularly welcome, given

(Mr. Novruzov, Azerbaijan)

the difficulties faced by the country. Indeed, all the former Soviet Republics faced many difficulties, fundamentally attributable to the splitting up of the former Soviet economy and the move from a centrally-planned to a market economy. The extent to which those problems were resolved would be a critical factor in stability in the late twentieth century.

63. Institutional changes in the economic, social and political structures of the transition countries were needed. The main contribution that UNDP could make in that connection was to act as a coordinator to facilitate the effective absorption of international assistance by those countries. Azerbaijan was currently negotiating with national corporations in such areas as the exploitation of oil deposits. There, too, UNDP could play an important coordination role, an aspect that was much more important than the channelling of resources.

64. Ms. SIBEKO (Observer, Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania) said that the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania looked forward to continued cooperation with UNDP as South Africa recovered from the ravages of apartheid. The country was still afflicted by socio-economic, social and political problems, including State-sponsored violence. Moreover, the country lacked education resources to train its people. The development task at hand was mammoth, and was aggravated by the chasm that existed between white affluence and African poverty, and by government corruption. The solution lay in a home-grown, politically neutral approach involving all the major players.

65. Mr. KONG Fannong (Department of Economic and Social Development) said that the emphasis by UNDP on aid management and resource mobilization in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States would have a multiplier effect and build a base for longer-term projects. A physical presence by the United Nations system was essential for the effective coordination of operational activities.

66. Unfortunately, the approach indicated by the Administrator did not fully exploit the potential for such an integrated strategy, which should be forged in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and other inter-agency frameworks. In particular, given the sizeable assistance provided from sources other than the United Nations, it was important to avoid duplication and, where possible, secure additional extrabudgetary support for United Nations activities. While contacts to that end had been initiated, they had not yet become effective umbrellas for integrated activities.

67. The transition to a market economy and democracy was an unprecedented and extremely complex process. The United Nations should support policy development in the social and economic fields as they related to that phenomenon. In view of the changing situation, access to information was essential. Such an integrated approach must take account of the comparative advantages of the United Nations system, with its wealth of expertise. The Department of Economic and Social Development, for example, possessed such expertise in a number of areas.

68. Ms. ASHRAF (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that UNESCO had developed an ongoing interaction with the relevant units of UNDP and had formulated its Programme for Central and Eastern European Development to coordinate UNESCO activities in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The programme coordinated a number of priority projects emphasizing social, vocational and cultural factors in the transition process.

69. Mr. HELMKE (Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States) said that UNDP was aware of the close cooperation between Pakistan and the Central Asian Republics, and was contemplating how it might act within that framework. With regard to the new modality of trilateral cooperation, UNDP would report further as it developed. The debate on the transition in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States had been extremely useful, but had revealed the lack of any internationally accepted body of policies on how the process should be concluded. The Governing Council dialogue represented an important stage in defining such policies.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 18 February 1993, at 7 p.m.

President: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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Administrative authority to approve preparatory assistance to global projects

Sectoral Support Programme: UNIDO Country Director

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The meeting was called to order at 7.20 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE TO GLOBAL PROJECTS (DP/1993/51)

1. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Division for Global and Interregional Programmes) said that, as indicated in document DP/1993/51, it had been proposed to increase the authority granted to the Administrator to approve preparatory work for global projects, from a level of $125,000 set by the Governing Council in 1980 to $250,000. The increase was consistent with the rate of inflation since 1980 as well as the increase in funds allocated to the IPF.

2. The preparatory work for global projects of the magnitude of those approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session was increasingly lengthy and costly, and the ceiling established 13 years earlier was no longer high enough to defray those costs. Therefore, it was recommended that the Governing Council should approve the increase in order to improve the efficiency of programme preparation.

3. Mr. MONROE (United States of America) said that his delegation appreciated that the substantial increase would facilitate the Administrator's work, but it was not convinced that the measure was warranted at that stage. Document DP/1993/51 failed to cite any instances in support of the recommendation where the amount currently authorized had hampered efforts to undertake preparatory work. Furthermore, there was no indication that accountability measures had been strengthened to ensure that contracts with consultants were in strict accordance with UNDP's financial regulations. The external auditor's report had disclosed a number of irregularities with respect to the hiring of consultants.

4. Since the controls now in place were insufficient, his delegation proposed that the request should be resubmitted at the June session, along with additional information and, if possible, the views of ACABQ and the Board of Auditors. The latter should also be requested to comment on the effect of any proposed change in the administrative authority on the financial regulations and rules of UNDP and on the possibility of auditing all preparatory assistance to global projects over a certain figure.

5. Mr. TWITE (United Kingdom) said that he had no objection to the proposed increase, which amounted to only 5 per cent per year since 1980, just keeping pace with inflation. However, he emphasized the importance of auditing accounts and, like the United States delegation, would welcome an in-depth review of the comments of the Board of Auditors regarding UNDP. His delegation was surprised that by the argument adduced in paragraph 3 of document DP/1993/51 the preparation of global projects required increased time. He hoped that did not indicate an increase in costs.

6. Mr. BABA (Observer for Uganda), said that he supported the proposed increase, which simply kept pace with the inflation which had occurred since the initial authorization in 1978. He urged strict accountability in the use of that authority.

7. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Division for Global and Interregional Programmes) fully agreed with the comments concerning accountability and auditing of expenditure for global projects. Project preparation required more time because the questions addressed were becoming increasingly complex and new concerns, particularly relating to the ecology, must be considered. The draft decision produced following informal consultations should meet the concerns of the United States delegation.

8. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Governing Council) read out the draft decision:

"The Governing Council,

"Approves an increase in the authority granted to the Administrator to approve preparatory assistance to global projects from the present level of $125,000 to $250,000, pending final approval by the Governing Council at its fortieth session (1993)."

9. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the draft decision.

It was so decided.

10. Ms. LIEDES (Finland) inquired how the Secretariat interpreted that decision as regarded the date of its entry into force and the duration of the authorization granted to the Administrator.

11. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator) said that the authorization was provisional. It took effect upon its approval, and would remain in force until the next session of the Governing Council, which would again rule on the matter.

SECTORAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME: UNIDO COUNTRY DIRECTOR (DP/1993/61)

12. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator) said that UNDP was providing $3.8 million a year to the UNIDO Country Director programme. That funding was provided from the $19 million allocated to sectoral support for the fifth programming cycle. UNIDO had been unable to maintain costs within the original estimates, and there was an immediate shortfall of $2.6 million in projected resources for 1992 and 1993. In its decision IDB.10/DEC.11, the Industrial Development Board had invited the Governing Council to consider increasing the annual allocation to the UNIDO Country Director programme. Therefore, the Administrator was proposing that the Governing Council should consider increasing the yearly allocation for 1992 and 1993 within the limits of the total $19 million earmarked for the funding of the UNIDO Country Director programme, which would lead to a corresponding reduction of yearly allocations for the last three years of the cycle. It should be noted that a review of the sectoral support programme was scheduled for 1994.

13. Mr. SHARMA (India) said that the proposal contained in document DP/1993/61 was justified by the circumstances, and his delegation supported it. However, he wished to emphasize that, given its strained resources, UNDP should make economy its major concern in order to maintain its technical assistance to developing countries. His delegation was unhappy with the decision of the

(Mr. Sharma, India)

Administrator to reduce IPFs by 25 per cent, which would certainly have an effect on the development of recipient countries. The comparative advantage of UNDP must be maintained and its technical assistance must be able to meet the needs of recipient countries. The specialized agencies should cooperate in the implementation of various development programmes. The new successor arrangements for support costs could be useful in that regard, if they made it unnecessary for UNDP to provide financial assistance called for in the proposal. In due course, UNIDO should marshall its own resources to sustain such programmes.

14. Mr. YAO Wenlong (China) said that the UNIDO Country Director programme had proven its usefulness, particularly in China, where the office of the Director had not only facilitated cooperation between the administration and UNIDO, but had also assisted UNDP in its work. Therefore, his delegation believed that the programme deserved to be strengthened and it approved the allocation of the amounts proposed by the Administrator for 1992 and 1993, which would not relieve UNIDO in the future from the necessity of reducing its programme expenses and finding other sources of financing.

15. Ms. ADAMS (Jamaica) also welcomed the allocation of the proposed amounts to the Country Director programme, which had provided effective support to UNDP activities in her country, particularly in industry.

16. Mr. TWITE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation understood the current difficulties of UNIDO, but that it could not support the UNDP allocation of supplementary funds to UNIDO. UNDP resources were scarce also, and it was facing a major reduction in funding for one of its main reasons for existence - technical assistance. Moreover, his delegation was not convinced that UNIDO had made every possible effort to reduce costs. Therefore, it supported the Administrator's proposal that the funds allocated would come out of the total amount for the financing of Country Director posts for the fifth programming cycle. While that solution would merely be a palliative, it did underscore the need for UNIDO to find solutions for the end of that cycle.

17. Mr. TRAXL (Austria) said that his delegation agreed that the programme was important and that the UNIDO request, which was reasonable, should be approved. His delegation supported the draft decision.

18. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator) assured members that, if the draft decision resulting from informal consultations was adopted, UNDP and UNIDO would implement it on the understanding that the greatest possible economy was absolutely necessary, particularly through control of overhead costs, so that, as far as possible, the funds received would be used directly for programme implementation.

19. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Governing Council) read out the draft decision, as follows:

(Mr. Graisse)

"The Governing Council,

Having considered the need for and possibility of increasing the annual allocation for the Country Director programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the basis of decision 11 of the Industrial Development Board at its tenth session, adopted on 6 November 1992 in Vienna, and the report of the Administrator (DP/1992/61),

Calling upon the Governments concerned to assume, whenever possible, local costs accruing from the posting of Country Directors to their countries,

1. Authorizes an amount of up to $10.2 million for the Country Director programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for 1992 and 1993, from the total of $19 million earmarked for funding the Programme in the fifth programming cycle under the Sectoral Support Programme;

2. Invites the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to manage the Country Director programme within the overall allocation made within the fifth programming cycle and to organize its activities to sustain the Programme as far as possible through its own resources, it being understood that this matter will be reviewed by the Governing Council at its forty-first session (1994);

3. Underlines that the reallocation authorized above leads to a corresponding reduction of yearly allocations for the last three years of the cycle."

20. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the draft decision.

21. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 8.05 p.m.

UNITED
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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Organizational meeting for 1993

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 19 February 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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Matters relating to the work of the Governing Council in 1993

Closure of the organizational meeting

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN 1993 (DP/1993/L.2)

Provisional agenda and organization of work of the fortieth session

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had coordinated informal consultations with the delegations that had submitted proposals at the previous meeting, held on Tuesday, on the item dealt with in document DP/1993/L.2.

2. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary) said that the tentative schedule of work, which was contained in revised annex II, indicated the meetings which would be devoted to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the first week of the session. The schedule, as usual, would be followed with the necessary flexibility so that sufficient time would be given to UNFPA.

3. The changes made in the schedule of work for UNDP items were the following: first, the question of HIV/AIDS would be dealt with on Tuesday, 15 June, to enable the experts to participate in the eleventh International Conference on AIDS to be held in Berlin from 7 to 11 June; second, on Thursday, 10 June, the Council would consider the item "Consequences for UNDP, particularly the Office of Project Services, of recent decisions on the administrative reform of the United Nations Secretariat"; third, the item "Senior management structure" would be dealt with on Thursday, 10 June, with related other matters.

4. Similarly, the Governing Council would consider the question of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/100, of 16 December 1992, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances: action by agencies of the United Nations system". As already indicated in document DP/1992/L.2, the annual report of the Administrator would include information on "significant steps taken by the United Nations Development Programme to follow up resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly".

5. Mr. ELLIS (United Kingdom) said that, in view of the importance of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 for UNDP, he wished to know when steps would be taken in that regard and whether sufficient time would be given to consideration of the question in the Governing Council.

6. Mrs. SCHAFER-PREUSS (Germany) wished to know whether the necessary time would be allocated for the questions concerning UNFPA and whether the schedule of work would be applied flexibly.

7. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary) said that, as usual, UNDP would report on significant steps taken to follow up resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and that the question concerning General Assembly resolution 47/199 would be dealt with during the consideration of the annual report of the Administrator. The questions relating to UNFPA would be considered in the second week of the session and there would be no time restraints.

8. The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda and organization of work of the fortieth session (DP/1993/L.2), as orally revised.

9. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

10. The PRESIDENT declared the organizational meeting closed.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

UNITED
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21 May 1993
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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 19 February 1993, at 3.35 p.m.

President: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

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Provisional activities of the programmes undertaken in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States

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Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ADOPTION OF DECISIONS FROM INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS (DP/1993/L.3, L.6 and L.7)

Draft decision DP/1993/L.3

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to draft decision DP/1993/L.3, on recipient country status.

2. Mr. RYSINSKI (Poland), Vice-President, speaking as coordinator of the informal consultations, introduced the draft decision and expressed satisfaction at the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Tajikistan were recipient countries in the United Nations Development Programme.

3. Draft decision DP/1993/L.3 was adopted.

Draft decision DP/1993/L.6

4. Mr. RADE (Netherlands), Vice-President, speaking as coordinator of the informal consultations held the previous day, introduced draft decision DP/1993/L.6.

5. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that he did not agree with the translation into French of the word "capacity".

6. Draft decision DP/1993/L.6 was adopted.

7. Mr. SHOJI (Japan) expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the draft decision and appreciation for the initiative by the Administrator in setting up the Capacity 21 programme. It was hoped that UNDP would take the necessary steps so that the execution of the programme could begin as soon as the Governing Council approved the details. Japan, aware of the basic importance of capacity-building in developing countries, would contribute $10 million to Capacity 21, as his Government had already pledged to the Council, in addition to its contribution to the Programme's core budget. Capacity 21 should complement the resources that UNDP received from other sources and should not be a substitute for them; further, that programme should not be viewed separately, but rather as an integral part of the UNDP environment programme. Japan would consider the possibility of providing contributions to those programmes in the future through the core budget.

8. Mr. SHARMA (India) welcomed the pledge made by Japan and expressed the hope that other donors would make similar contributions.

9. Mr. KABIR (Observer for Bangladesh) noted with satisfaction the adoption of draft decision DP/1993/L.6 and hoped that when Capacity 21 was launched, priority would be given to the special needs of the least developed

(Mr. Kabir, Observer, Bangladesh)

countries. During consideration of the question of environment and development, his delegation had reiterated its firm support for that programme and had expressed its concern at the lack of available funds for it. Accordingly, he greatly welcomed the pledge made by Japan. It was hoped that other donors would make similar contributions.

10. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) expressed satisfaction at the sizeable contribution to Capacity 21 pledged by Japan, particularly since it would be in addition to the regular contribution by Japan to the Programme's core resources.

11. Mr. GUILLEN (Peru) and Mr. TANTOT (France) joined the delegations that had expressed appreciation for the special contribution pledged by Japan to Capacity 21.

Draft decision DP/1993/L.7

12. Mr. RADE (Netherlands), Vice-President, speaking as coordinator of the informal consultations held on draft decision DP/1993/L.7, introduced the draft decision on United Nations technical cooperation activities and urged the members of the Council to adopt it by consensus.

13. Draft decision DP/1993/L.7 was adopted.

PROVISIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN IN THE BALTIC STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (DP/1993/5)

14. The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the members of the Council wished to take note of the report of the Administrator on provisional activities of the programmes undertaken in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States (DP/1993/5), as well as the comments made by delegations during the consideration of the item.

15. It was so decided.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS (DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.3)

16. Mr. STELZER (Austria), speaking as Rapporteur of the Standing Committee for Programme Matters, introduced document DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.3, which contained the Standing Committee's recommendations to the Council set forth in a draft decision, whose adoption he strongly recommended.

17. He drew the Council's attention to the following amendments to the draft decision contained in the report by the Standing Committee (DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.3). The phrase "and their possible effect on programme implementation" should be added at the end of paragraph 2. In paragraph 3, the words "Takes note" should be replaced by the word "Approves". Old paragraph 5 became new paragraph 6 and old paragraph 6 became new paragraph 5. New paragraph 6 should read:

(Mr. Stelzer, Austria)

"Decides

"(a) To discuss the general question of project approval on a case-by-case basis at its fortieth session;

"(b) To examine the timetable of the mid-term review at its fortieth session in the light of the views expressed by delegates at the special session."

18. The Standing Committee would consider the question of adopting the report at the fortieth session of the Governing Council, which would leave sufficient time for including the amendments in a revised text and translating it into the official languages.

19. Mr. AMIN-MANSOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, since the first two paragraphs of document DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.3 began with the word "Approves", paragraph 3 should also begin with that word.

20. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) requested an explanation for the specific reference to the evolution of the political circumstances of Rwanda in paragraph 2 of document DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.3, which seemed highly unusual in such a document.

21. Mr. EDGREN (Associate Administrator) said that it was not the first time that a reference was made to the political circumstances of a country in a draft decision. When the fifth country programme of Malawi had been adopted, a similar phrase had been included in the text of the decision. The intention was to underscore, not the political situation per se, but rather its effect on the country programme.

22. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that that reply did not allay his concern. The French version of the document referred to "la situation politique du pays". It would be preferable to speak of the political circumstances of the country, which was the phrase used, according to the Associate Administrator, in adopting the country programme of Malawi.

23. The PRESIDENT said that he agreed with the reply given by the Associate Administrator, since he had been the Chairman of the Standing Committee when the fifth country programme of Malawi had been adopted, and he pointed out that the wording of the English and French texts differed, which might have given rise to the difficulties experienced by the representative of Benin. The English version of the document referred to the "political circumstances of the country", whereas the French text spoke of the "situation politique du pays". The Rapporteur would be able to harmonize the two texts.

24. Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that it would be preferable for the representatives themselves to try to harmonize the texts so that the definitive version would be to their liking.

25. Mr. YOUSIF (Sudan) said that his delegation viewed with great concern the unnecessary reference to political questions in such decisions.

26. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Council) said that the French text should read "sur l'évolution des circonstances politiques" or "du l'environnement politique du pays", since "situation politique" was not the same as "political circumstances".

27. The PRESIDENT said that the item under discussion was relatively simple and consisted of finding a way to harmonize the different language versions on the basis of the original English text.

28. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), supported by Mr. ROHNER (Observer for Switzerland), said that, so as not to offend anyone, the correct formula in French would be "ainsi que sur le contexte social et politique et ses incidences sur l'exécution du programme".

29. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Council) said that the French version could not be too different from the original English version.

30. Mr. AMAZIANE (Observer for Morocco), supported by Mr. MONGBE (Benin), said that the problem was not rooted in the translation; the difficulty arose from the use of the adjective "political" to describe the situation. The Governing Council lacked standing to evaluate the political circumstances of a country. It would be necessary to state: "as well as on the evolution of the general situation in the country and its possible impact on the implementation of the country programme".

31. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Council) read out the formula used in 1992 for the country programme for Malawi, which referred to the social and political context and its impact on the implementation of the programme.

32. Mr. BARDAD DAIDJ (Algeria) proposed the following wording, which would be faithful to the spirit in which the paragraph in question had been drafted: "as well as on the impact which the evolution of the general context in the country could have on the implementation of the country programme".

33. Mr. AMAZIANE (Observer for Morocco) said that the previous speaker's proposal had improved the text.

34. The PRESIDENT reminded delegations that the Council was in plenary meeting and that, accordingly, oral amendments were provisional. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the recommendations of the Standing Committee which were contained in document DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.3, as orally amended by the Rapporteur and the representative of Algeria.

35. It was so decided.

36. Mr. TANTOT (France), referring to paragraph 2 of document DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.3, said he wished to make it clear that, while political

(Mr. Tantot, France)

questions arose on occasion, the Standing Committee for Programme Matters was basically concerned with economic issues. In considering the country programme for Rwanda, the Standing Committee had been asked to approve a five-year programme containing certain priorities established months earlier, at a time when the situation in the country had been relatively normal, with a view to establishing some development objectives. However, while considering the programme, the Standing Committee had been aware that tragic events were taking place in Rwanda, that a war had broken out which had caused deaths and had led to a situation in which there were millions of displaced people and refugees. In view of that situation, a proposal had been made to defer consideration of the programme until June. The delegation of Rwanda had made very candid statements regarding the political context and, at the express request of that delegation, it had been decided not to postpone the adoption of a decision with regard to the programme. Nevertheless, as it had been in the interest of the Standing Committee to act responsibly, it had been requested, on the proposal of the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, that the Standing Committee should revert to the consideration of some elements, including the political situation - hence the formula elaborated in that regard - on the basis of a report which the Administrator had been requested to submit by June 1993.

37. Ms. SCHAFER-PREUSS (Germany) said that she supported the statement made by the representative of France. A spirit of cooperation had prevailed in the Standing Committee, and it was regrettable that delegations which had raised doubts had not been able to participate in the discussions, since that might have given them a better understanding of what had been reflected in the report.

38. Mr. BIZIMANA (Rwanda), after expressing appreciation for the Governing Council's decision to adopt the fifth programme of cooperation between UNDP and Rwanda, reaffirmed the commitment of his country's Government and people to providing full support for the implementation of the programme. A peace process had been unfolding in Rwanda since the previous year. Although a violation of the cease-fire had occurred approximately two weeks earlier, all the necessary steps had been taken to ensure that the cease-fire held, and what had been involved should be regarded as an isolated incident and not a generalized phenomenon.

39. The PRESIDENT said that the amendments would be faithfully reflected in all the languages; he took it that the Council had concluded its consideration of the item.

40. It was so decided.

41. Mr. TANTOT (France) said that the consideration of country programmes had been the major topic of the special session, which had been held to determine the activities of the United Nations programmes to assist the developing countries.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

42. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator), noting with satisfaction the great interest which delegations had expressed in country missions and in the presence of some resident representatives, said that 13 new recipient countries had been added in 1992, and that with the approval of recipient status for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Tajikistan, the number of countries and territories receiving UNDP assistance totalled 172.

43. He noted the active participation of all delegations in the discussions concerning institutional arrangements as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and expressed special appreciation to the Government of Japan for its generous contribution of $10 million to Capacity 21. With regard to the new temporary offices in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States, he had taken note of the discussions and the concerns expressed. In June, discussion of the item could be resumed, and a more detailed and substantive dialogue could take place.

44. The year 1993 would be extremely difficult, not only for UNDP, but for the entire United Nations system. Requests for UNDP assistance were growing at an unprecedented rate, but resources were not increasing proportionally. Of course, in recessionary times resources were scarce, but for that very reason, it was necessary, now more than ever before, to demonstrate the importance of the contribution made by UNDP, to emphasize its function in developing countries and to highlight the crucial role which it played in emergency situations, as in Somalia and Mozambique.

45. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the special session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

DP

Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme

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DP/1993/SR.9
24 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Fortieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 1 June 1993, at 10 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. SERRATE CUELLAR (Bolivia)

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

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Statement by the Administrator

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the fortieth session of the Governing Council.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Congo to the United Nations had informed the Governing Council secretariat that, owing to his absence from New York, Mr. Adouki would not be in a position to preside over the current session of the Council. Under rule 11 of the Council's rules of procedure, it was the turn of a member of the African Group of States to hold the presidency in 1993. The Group had therefore nominated Mr. Hadid (Algeria) for election to the office of President.

3. Mr. Hadid (Algeria) was elected President by acclamation.

4. Mr. Hadid (Algeria) took the Chair.

5. The PRESIDENT said that the Governing Council was meeting at a time when the international economic and political situation was undergoing radical and unprecedented changes. At the current session, the Council would consider a number of very important questions. With the cooperation of all members and observers, the Council would be able to take constructive decisions to maintain and strengthen the pivotal role of UNDP in promoting the development efforts of developing countries and improving living conditions throughout the world.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (DP/1993/L.8)

6. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the agenda as contained in annex I to document DP/1993/L.8.

7. The agenda was adopted.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the members of the Council to the tentative schedule of work set forth in document DP/1993/L.8/Corr.1. As usual, the schedule of work was provisional so that the Council and its subsidiary bodies would be able to take up various items on a flexible basis. If consideration of an item was completed before the date indicated, the Council would move immediately to the next item on the schedule. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the schedule of work.

9. It was so decided.

10. The PRESIDENT, turning to the issue of the assignment of responsibilities to the Vice-Presidents, said that in February the Council had agreed that Mr. Serrate Cuellar (Bolivia) should chair the Standing Committee for Programme

(The President)

Matters and Mr. Rade (Netherlands) should chair the Budgetary and Finance Committee. At that time, the Council had deferred the appointment of the Chairman of the Drafting Group. After consultations among the officers of the Council, he wished to inform the Council that Mr. Ziaran (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. Rysinski (Poland) had been appointed to serve as Co-Chairman of the Drafting Group.

STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR

11. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator) drew attention to a number of very important items to be dealt with by the Council, which would, for example, consider 15 UNFPA country programmes and 27 UNDP country programmes as well as 15 extensions. The usual practice of having resident representatives participate during consideration of some of those country programmes would continue. There were a number of specific policy papers, relating, in particular, to multilateral coordination and complementarity and the Programme's comparative advantage. The Council would resume the review of follow-up action by UNDP to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and would consider developments relating to the Secretary-General's initiative in the restructuring of the economic and social operations of the United Nations, particularly as they related to UNDP and the Office for Projects Services (OPS). His proposals concerning the staffing and top echelons of UNDP were submitted to the Council in the context of the 1994-1995 budget estimates.

12. The Council would also deal with important programme-level activities, such as HIV/AIDS, women in development, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations, regional and economic integration and the Management Development Programme. In view of the many important items on the agenda, it was essential to maintain the spirit of consensus that had characterized the Council's deliberations in previous years in an atmosphere of frank and cordial discussions. The challenges that lay ahead in the new era were enormous and he hoped that the Council's efforts would be productive and meaningful for the developing world.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

(a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (DP/1993/29 (Parts I, II and III), DP/1993/30, 31, 32 and Corr.1, DP/1993/33 and 34 and Corr.1)

13. Mrs. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), introducing the report of the Executive Director for 1992 (DP/1993/29, Parts I, II and III), expressed profound appreciation for the constructive support which the Governing Council continued to give to UNFPA. Population issues were at the forefront of the development agenda. The preparatory process for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development had led to a tremendously rich discussion of the choices and responsibilities that those issues implied. First and foremost was the recognition that population issues involved individual choices and responsibilities. If population programmes truly catered to the needs of individual women and men, all national and global goals could be easily met. In keeping with such an approach, family planning

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should be seen from a broad perspective encompassing reproductive and sexual health and personal well-being. Adequate attention should be given to such matters as sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, abortion, infertility, harmful traditional practices and maternal mortality. In particular, there was a need to reach more effectively adolescent girls and boys and ensure that men were more supportive of, and participated in, family planning.

14. Population programmes should be better designed in order to reflect fully a gender perspective and help empower women to make decisions for themselves. Women must be able to surmount the social and cultural barriers limiting their use of family planning, even in places where access to such services existed. Matters that no one had dared to address before must now be on the agenda, including exploitation of and violence against women, both in times of peace and in times of crisis. The world was facing an unprecedented opportunity, which must be seized now.

15. She would now briefly refer to some of the documents that UNFPA was presenting to the Council.

16. UNFPA was submitting a report on its experience in implementing the priority-country system (DP/1993/33), which, in essence, recommended that the current criteria and thresholds for designating priority countries should be maintained. The report also recommended that the list of priority countries should be updated more frequently.

17. Document DP/1993/32 and Corr.1 contained a progress report on UNFPA successor support cost arrangements. UNFPA was pleased to report that the initial difficulties in the implementation of the new system had been mostly overcome.

18. The report on UNFPA collaboration with the World Bank and the regional development banks (DP/1993/34) reviewed collaborative experience at the country, regional and global levels, outlined complementarities and constraints, and recommended further steps to advance the programmatic and substantive collaborative process.

19. Document DP/1993/30 contained the work plan for 1994-1997 and a request for programme expenditure authority. Although the work plan included a contribution from the United States Government, contributions from the Fund's traditional donors had not increased sufficiently to match programme requirements. The work plan for 1994-1997 therefore reflected a more conservative approach to resource planning.

20. The Fund's biennial budget estimates for the administrative and programme support services for the 1994-1995 biennium were presented in document DP/1993/35, and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was contained in document DP/1993/38. At the current meeting she would refer only to a few points that needed underscoring in that connection. The budget proposal for the 1994-1995 biennium was based on sound income estimates and took into account the need to contain administrative expenditures. Proposed volume increases in the budget, by and large, had been

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offset by volume decreases elsewhere in the proposal, resulting in a zero volume-increase proposal.

21. In accordance with the Secretary-General's request that UNFPA participate in the process of restructuring the United Nations by reducing its senior establishment, the budget proposal included a reduction of three senior-level posts at headquarters at the Assistant Secretary-General, D-2 and D-1 levels.

22. She would now turn to a brief review of the UNFPA programme in 1992 and some highlights of the current year. Although the resource utilization rate had decreased from 103.1 per cent in 1991 to 81.8 per cent in 1992 as a result of factors such as more cautious programming, uncertainty about the Fund's resources and internal strife in a number of countries, it was still high enough to show that the delivery of the UNFPA programme was satisfactory.

23. In line with the Governing Council's directives, and reflecting the progress being made in addressing individuals' unmet needs and the priority that countries now placed on extending family planning information and services as a key component of a strategy for an effective population programme, allocations to priority countries had increased from 73.1 per cent in 1991 to 74.2 per cent in 1992, with the largest share of programme resources - 49.3 per cent - being allocated to family planning and another 16.6 per cent to associated information, education and communication activities. UNFPA had continued to devote particular attention to expanding and strengthening programmes in the sub-Saharan Africa region. In all its programme activities, the Fund had been guided by the principle set out in the World Population Plan of Action of seeking to provide women and men with family planning information and services so as to enable them to exercise their fundamental human right to decide on matters of child-bearing and to safeguard their reproductive health. In that connection, UNFPA had continued to place special emphasis on advocacy with a view to improving the status of women.

24. Where the newly independent States were concerned, given the Fund's limited resources, most of the family planning needs identified in those countries could be met only if additional special resources could be mobilized, although UNFPA could and would provide some technical assistance and modest support.

25. The UNFPA global initiative on contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs in developing countries had progressed rapidly in 1992.

26. Also in 1992, UNFPA had - in keeping with its mandate and in collaboration with Governments, non-governmental organizations and other United Nations agencies and organizations - secured a notable expansion in the extent and scope of its support for AIDS prevention and control as part of national family planning programmes.

27. Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, UNFPA had begun to examine its activities to ensure that the goals of Agenda 21 were reflected in the programmes it supported. In that regard, it was arranging a consultation later during the current year to address problems encountered in translating those relatively new concepts into operational programmes.

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28. While the Fund had improved its collaboration efforts with the World Bank, the regional banks and UNICEF, those efforts could be considerably strengthened and expanded in the future. It had also continued to cooperate with non-governmental organizations, especially the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Population Council, and planned - as a result of greater decentralization of authority to UNFPA field offices - to address seriously the recommendation made by the recent donor evaluation of the Fund to make more use of the expertise available in non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

29. Although many of the existing programming and other policies of UNFPA were well in line with General Assembly resolution 47/199, the Fund was further expanding decentralization and delegation of approval authority at headquarters as well as at the country level. It had also pioneered the decentralization of technical support to countries and to the subregional level. While the Fund fully supported the idea that the resident coordinator function should be strengthened, it felt that it was now time to ensure better the identity and authority of the UNFPA country director in order to strengthen the effectiveness and visibility of the UNFPA programme.

30. In the Fund's view, the approach to population issues must be pragmatic and respond to the strategic needs of individual countries at a given time. To be effective, population assistance must also address needs which were crucial to the legitimacy and sustainability of programmes.

31. The recent tri-donor evaluation of UNFPA and some of the field visits of Governing Council members demonstrated that the Fund's approach had been quite effective on the whole. Some of the recommendations put forward by the evaluation addressed the need to sharpen the strategic focus of UNFPA assistance, and to strengthen field office capacity and access for such offices to sources of technical and other support. As such support was essential to facilitating national execution as well as decentralization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199, she had extended access for UNFPA field offices to national expertise in direct support of and as part of programme activities.

32. A top challenge for the Fund was ensuring that it became a centre of excellence and a provider of valued expert advice and effective, quality programmes. UNFPA was prepared to assist countries and donors in identifying key strategic interventions and further improve accountability for its own resources with clearer results and value for the investments made. To achieve that, however, it required a certain flexibility in order to respond to the special needs of each particular country.

33. One of the foremost challenges facing the Fund for the remainder of the 1990s was the urgent need to mobilize increased resources and to have a more predictable system of financing. In that regard, she was grateful for the Nordic United Nations study and the work on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields; the draft General Assembly resolution on that issue also provided an important step forward towards a new funding system.

(Mrs. Sadik)

34. UNFPA was making every effort further to improve the effective use of existing resources. Developing countries must show their commitment by increasing funding for population programmes and for social development programmes in general. It was up to developing and developed countries alike to decide to what extent, in the face of competing demands, the commitment required to extend and improve population and development programmes would be maintained. While she appreciated the fact that some donors were opposed to fixed shares or amounts, the percentage of official development assistance was a useful indicator.

35. UNFPA's own funding situation remained a serious concern. Demands by countries far exceeded available funds. In 1992, the total UNFPA income of about $238.2 million had been only 6.3 per cent more than the 1991 figure of $224.0 million. For the current year, results of fund-raising remained extremely disappointing. Contributions for 1993 were expected to be about the same as the previous year. That situation was partly the result of an actual decrease in contributions from some of the Fund's traditional donors and partly the result of a decrease brought about by the relative strength of the United States dollar vis-à-vis the currency of the pledge. She strongly appealed to donors for increased funding in 1993. She also hoped that the United States would once again become a UNFPA donor at a level that would truly reflect the priority that the United States Administration gave to women's reproductive health, informed choice and population as a critical part of measures for sustainable development.

36. She reiterated the Fund's gratitude to its traditional major donors especially those that had maintained and even increased their contributions despite domestic financial constraints. She also thanked the developing countries that continued to make extreme sacrifices in order to be able to contribute to UNFPA, thus signifying the importance they attached to population activities.

37. With respect to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, one of the hallmarks of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference had been the extent of the agreement and the similarity of views and the sense of interest and commitment among attending delegations. Participants had reaffirmed the need for the Conference to be action-oriented, to build upon the outcome of the previous world population conferences and to provide a new set of selected priority recommendations. It was now essential to channel the considerable energy generated during the Preparatory Committee session towards the implementation of the population agenda as parts of the preparation for the Conference and beyond.

38. She expressed her gratitude for the support of all countries and participants into the preparatory process leading up to the Conference, appealed to all countries to make financial contributions to the Conference, and thanked UNICEF for its financial and personnel support for the Conference and UNDP for the proposed secondment of a staff member from UNDP to the Conference secretariat. She hoped that other United Nations agencies and organizations would provide similar support for the Conference.

39. Mr. MILLERON (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis) said that since the previous session of the Governing Council extensive restructuring had been undertaken of the economic and social sector of the United Nations Secretariat. That restructuring had so far led to the establishment of three new departments, including his own. His department's main tasks included the analysis of economic and social developments; the monitoring and evaluation, from a global perspective, of economic and social trends and policies; the preparation of projections and the identification of new issues requiring the international community's attention; the gathering, improvement and dissemination of economic and social information; and the implementation of cooperation activities in the area of statistics and population. Some of the elements within the Department's mandate were highly relevant either directly or indirectly to the work of UNFPA and its Governing Council.

40. Since its creation in 1946, the Population Division had endeavoured to provide a standard and consistent set of population figures for use throughout the United Nations system and operational organizations of the United Nations system had relied on the Division to provide them with up-to-date population information.

41. According to the 1992 revision of the estimates, the world's population stood at 5.5 billion persons and was growing at the rate of 1.7 per cent annually. It could reach 6.2 billion by the end of the century and 8.5 billion by the year 2025. The important point to note in that growth phenomenon was that the average annual population growth rate had remained virtually unchanged since 1975, despite extensive efforts made by national Governments and the international community to reduce the growth rate. Encouraged by the achievements of some Governments in curtailing their countries' population growth rates in a short period of time, the Department had projected that the growth rate would decline by one per cent by the year 2025. Over three quarters of the world's population now lived in the less developed regions and 92 per cent of the world's population increase by the year 2025 would occur in those regions, whose population could reach 7.1 billion.

42. Among the less developed regions, the population of Africa is expected to expand from the 1992 level of 12 per cent of the world's population to 19 per cent by the year 2025, while the countries of Latin America were expected to maintain their share of about 8 per cent of the world's population during the same period. The share of the world's population living in Asia was expected to decline slightly from 59 per cent to 58 per cent by 2025. Within Asia, the share of China would continue to decline - from 22 per cent to 18 per cent. India would maintain its 16 per cent share of the world's population by the year 2025. Currently, about 60 per cent of the world's population was living in the 10 largest countries, with China and India accounting for 38 per cent of the world's population. Another 14 per cent was living in 12 countries with populations between 50 and 100 million persons. That meant that nearly three quarters of the world's population lived in 22 countries.

43. Although there had been some improvement in health conditions in the less developed regions, the large majority of the population there still did not have access to adequate health facilities. Life expectancy at birth was estimated to be 62.4 years during the period 1990-1994, on average, but it was significantly

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lower in some areas. The international community must continue to strengthen its efforts to improve the health of all people, particularly those in areas lacking a significant health infrastructure and adequate resources, knowledge and access to a healthy environment.

44. He was gratified to note that estimates of fertility in developing countries continued to show a declining trend; the average fertility rate in the 1975-1980 period was 4.6 children per woman, while the average estimated for the period 1990-1995 was 3.6. However, the annual number of births continued to rise because of the increasing number of women of child-bearing age. According to the Department's data, the number of births during the 1990-1995 period would be five per cent higher than it had been in the period 1985-1990.

45. Direct and indirect support of family planning services based on freedom of choice was also an encouraging development. Efforts in that area undertaken by Governments and non-government organizations had produced significant changes in contraceptive practices. For example, the rate of contraceptive use among women of child-bearing age had reached 53 per cent by 1992, which represented a fivefold increase since the period 1960-1965. Africa remained the only large region where the practice of contraception remained limited in the majority of countries. There was some variation between North African and sub-Saharan African countries with respect to rates of contraceptive use. In approximately 22 sub-Saharan countries with data on contraception, only 5 per cent of couples apparently had access to effective modern methods of contraception. By contrast, the rate of contraceptive use in East Asia was 72 per cent, or approximately the same level as in more developed countries. In Latin America, the average rate of contraceptive use was 57 per cent. Organized family planning and socio-economic development were related to each other in a mutually-reinforcing way.

46. Urbanization and migration were also important demographic trends. According to estimates for 1992, more than 43 per cent of the world's population lived in cities. In the developed regions of the world that rate reached 73 per cent, as compared to 34 per cent in the developing regions. The annual rate of urban population growth for the world as a whole in the period 1985-1990 (2.7 per cent) had been far in excess of the rate of growth of total population. Total urban population had increased by approximately 284 million between 1985 and 1990 in absolute numbers, although that increase was distributed very unevenly among regions. In addition, migration, especially in Europe, was once again becoming an important question on the world's agenda. The combined effects of political conflict, natural disasters, social strife and the advent of a European common market would be likely to increase the number of migrants and refugees in the future.

47. Lastly, the ageing of the world's population constituted another important demographic challenge. The proportion of people 65 years of age or older had increased steadily over the past forty years, although it remained within the range of 3-7 per cent of total population. However, the rate of growth of the population 65 and older was appreciably greater than the rate of growth in the number of children. It had been estimated that the over-65 population would grow from 328 million in 1990 to 828 million in the year 2025. Nearly half of all people aged 65 and older lived in Asia, although large elderly populations

(Mr. Milleron)

could also be found in Europe, North America, and the former Soviet Union. The social, psychological, and economic needs of the elderly population would remain a major concern for many countries and for the international community as well.

48. He also drew attention to the linkages between population, poverty and the environment; he emphasized the potentially positive aspect of population as a resource for development and the need to make the development of human resources a cornerstone of larger development efforts.

49. He was pleased that a cooperative relationship had developed between UNFPA and the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, particularly the Population and Statistics Divisions. He looked forward to collaborating with UNFPA in such areas as the implementation of technical assistance to individual countries and planning for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo, and in follow-up activities connected with the Conference.

50. Mr. HAAKONSEN (Observer for Denmark) speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the Executive Director's report had provided much food for thought, particularly in its use of statistics to illustrate population trends.

51. The International Conference on Population and Development would impart new impetus to efforts in the population field after a period in which resources for population activities had been lacking. Preparations for the 1994 Conference were well under way, and the conclusions and recommendations emerging from regional conferences and meetings of experts had been considered during the preparatory process. The importance that the States members of the European Community attached to preparations for the Conference was demonstrated in their recent adoption of a resolution concerning family planning and population policies in developing countries, and in the participation of the Community in the European Population Conference in March 1993.

52. Despite the late distribution of relevant documentation, the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development had produced results that would prove to be of value for the third session of the Preparatory Committee and for the Conference itself. The preparatory process would be strengthened even further by the decision to discuss an annotated outline of the final document of the Cairo Conference at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly and to have the Conference secretariat prepare a draft document based on comments from participants in the second preparatory session and at the General Assembly. He looked forward to receiving that document well in advance of the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

53. The report that had followed the independent evaluation of UNFPA conducted by three major donors contained many useful comments and recommendations regarding the performance of UNFPA and its Governing Council; he hoped that there would be active debate on those recommendations in the UNDP Governing Council. In that connection, he drew attention to recommendations in the report with respect to financing, programme selection procedures, and programme implementation and design. In the past, UNDP had sometimes lacked the courage

(Mr. Haakonsen, Observer, Denmark)

to resist pressure from Governments and to maintain its professional conclusions and that had resulted in some bad investments in certain projects.

54. Africa would require particular attention from the Fund in coming years. Although the population of Africa was only 13 per cent of the world population, Africa was the place where the highest population growth rates were to be found. The Executive Director had been requested to report to the Council on the implementation of a UNFPA assistance strategy for sub-Saharan Africa. Although positive developments could be identified in many areas, the fact that a high percentage of the population continued to have little or no access to reproductive health services was discouraging. The report had noted that countries with low contraceptive prevalence levels also lacked formal population programmes. Although UNFPA could point to successes in certain areas, further effort was required, particularly in the fields of advocacy and policy formulation. Recent declines in levels of UNFPA support for Africa were therefore a matter of profound concern.

55. The Executive Director had also been requested to report on the implementation of a strategy to strengthen the Fund's capacity to address questions concerning women, population and development. The Fund had participated in a wide range of workshops, seminars and meetings on issues relating to women. UNFPA had long been aware of the crucial importance of involving women in all aspects of programme design and execution. However, the direct impact of those workshops, seminars and meetings on projects in the field was not always clear. The development of a reporting system encompassing an in-house database in the near future, and the new "Gender Reporting Form" could help to improve the accuracy of assessments in that area. However, the database design should not neglect the need for closer monitoring of other target groups, including adolescent males.

56. Close cooperation among all participants in the population field, particularly non-governmental organizations and the private sector, was essential to mobilizing private initiative and creativity at the grass-roots level. The effectiveness of programmes could be enhanced by exploiting the different comparative advantages of non-governmental organizations and the private sector in planning and delivery.

57. The European Community attached great importance to the conclusions and recommendations set out in General Assembly resolution 47/199 concerning methods for improving the operational activities of the United Nations development system. The coordination mechanisms to which the Executive Director's report made reference were important elements in establishing a common approach. He hoped that UNFPA would continue to play an important role in the future in promoting coordination among Governments and development agencies in the fields of population and development. To that end, the preparation of country strategy notes and harmonization of programming cycles between United Nations agencies and Governments were essential. Lastly, the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries would provide a useful forum for the exchange of practical and technical know-how concerning population and family planning questions.

58. Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that it was becoming vitally important to address the interlinkages between questions of population and sustainable development; as a result it was necessary to combine efforts to control population growth with activities to alleviate poverty and to change global patterns of production and consumption.

59. The report of the Executive Director clearly showed that UNFPA was making efforts to improve the quality of its work in order to meet the challenges of the future. The conclusions and recommendations of General Assembly resolution 47/199 regarding the operational activities of United Nations agencies would have an important impact on the operational activities of UNFPA.

60. The report arising from the independent evaluation of UNFPA provided important recommendations with respect to future directions and activities of the Fund. The report had recommended greater emphasis on information, education, and communication (IEC) activities, particularly the targeting of audiences. For that reasons, it was a matter of concern to his delegation that the share of resources allocated to IEC activities in various UNFPA programmes had diminished slightly. He hoped that the situation would prove to be temporary. IEC activities had an important role to play in the Fund's future activities, especially in the light of the views expressed by other representatives regarding comparative advantages and the need to strengthen the advocacy and policy work of the Fund.

61. The Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise provided the key to success in developing programmes. However, the independent evaluation had noted that, although the exercise had been a positive step in most cases, there was insufficient feedback to the programming process as a result of the exercise. In many countries a lack of strategic focus continued to be a problem, and in many cases too many projects had been implemented having only marginal impact on long-term population goals.

62. Capacity-building and government execution were fundamental and should be strengthened. It was a matter of concern that out of a total sum of $34.17 million for government-executed projects, $21.8 million had gone to assistance for procurement. The Nordic countries would like to see better use made of the comparative advantage of UNFPA as a centre of excellence in the field of population.

63. In that connection, the work of the country support teams was so far unsatisfactory and his Government welcomed the evaluation planned for the end of 1993. That evaluation should address, in particular, the role and composition of the country support teams and their ability to respond to the needs of Governments in the area of capacity-building, with due regard for the complexity of the issues involved in the field of population and sustainable development.

64. The independent evaluation report of UNFPA had recommended improvements in certain areas of activity in order to enhance the quality of programmes and projects, make more rapid progress towards the achievement of specific population objectives, and promote capacity-building and the sustainability of population programmes. UNFPA should ensure that quality took precedence in its programming and should focus on continued capacity-building within national institutions. Staff in field offices should have sufficient managerial capacity

(Mr. Kääriä, Finland)

and the analytical and evaluation skills to support national authorities. A comprehensive system of programme and project quality review was also needed. The evaluation report had also stressed the need for proper monitoring of projects and programmes and for financial accountability.

65. The report of the Executive Director highlighted the strategy for sub-Saharan Africa and the theme of women, population and development, both of which were central to the mandate of UNFPA, which was to reach the poor and underprivileged. Women were at the core of all activities related to population, and UNFPA should therefore review its activities on women, population and development in order to improve its contribution in that area to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

66. While the status report had given some explanation for the decline in Africa's share of UNFPA activities from 1991 to 1992, many questions had been left unanswered. The results of long-term work were emerging only very slowly and were not apparent everywhere. The Nordic countries wished to stress the urgency of Africa's needs and would welcome more information on how UNFPA could strengthen its work in Africa.

67. With respect to resource allocation, clear priorities should be established for UNFPA activities, taking into account the increasing importance of an integrated approach to population and development. Better coordination with other actors in the field of population and development and a clear division of labour were necessary, particularly since the resources available were not increasing as fast as before.

68. Ms. VOLKOFF (Canada) said that she would concentrate first on the strategic choices that must be made by UNFPA if it was to achieve impact and be effective and then on the need for UNFPA to define better its accountability and to be held accountable for its choices. Both of those themes were currently echoed throughout the United Nations development system in the context of the reform of the Organization and in the light of the current situation with respect to financial resources.

69. The Council was meeting at a time when global needs and challenges, both within and outside the population arena, were daily expanding, while the resources available to meet those challenges were not. The sense of urgency behind United Nations reform stemmed from that resource pressure and from the need for greater efficiency within the United Nations development system. The best way to achieve efficiency was to look at the total system, and not only at its parts. The budget of UNFPA represented only 5 per cent of the total resources spent annually in developing countries on population-related activities. It was therefore evident that UNFPA would have to use its budget strategically, in full cognizance of the other 95 per cent, if it was to make its dollars count.

70. The recent independent evaluation of UNFPA had confirmed the unique role of UNFPA in population assistance, particularly in sensitizing political and opinion leaders to population issues. It had also confirmed that UNFPA was stretched too thinly in terms of financial and human resources to fulfil its mandate. In order to be effective, UNFPA needed to focus on those areas, both

(Ms. Volkoff, Canada)

globally and within individual countries, in which it had a comparative advantage, and to make strategic choices in terms of which work it chose to do and where.

71. With regard to the choice of countries, the priority system needed to be refined in order to make it a more prescriptive tool. Priority criteria should help to evaluate needs and thus allocate resources on a priority basis. The current criteria outlined in document DP/1993/33 constituted a descriptive rather than a prescriptive instrument which seemed to have had little or no bearing on the amount of investment in priority versus non-priority countries.

72. In terms of programme choices, UNFPA would be more effective if it tailored the scope of its country programmes not only to needs, but also to existing government and other donor programming. There should be no predetermined mix of activities for countries, since it had been broadly recognized that UNFPA programmes cut across all work-plan categories in roughly similar proportions in different country situations. Surely, however, there should be a difference in programming between countries such as Bangladesh, where UNFPA provided only 2 per cent of donor funding for population activities, and those countries in which it funded over two thirds of donor activity. Canada hoped that the United Nations country strategy note outlined in resolution 47/199 would assist Governments working with UNFPA in making choices based on the comparative advantage of UNFPA as one member of a development team in the area of population issues. Her Government welcomed the support which UNFPA had undertaken to provide for the country strategy note process and for the relevant inter-agency fora.

73. With regard to its choice of approach, UNFPA was carrying too many small projects in its portfolio and needed to focus on desired impact rather than on individual activities, to reduce the number of projects, and to shift towards a programme approach.

74. On the question of accountability, a key theme of discussions to date on the restructuring of the United Nations system had been the roles and responsibilities of different parts of the system. Whatever the final outcome of those discussions, UNFPA would have to define better the accountability not only of the Governing Council but also of its secretariat, its representatives in the field, and its executing agencies. Moreover, once the accountability of the different actors had been established, they should then be held to account.

75. In keeping with that approach, for example, the accountability of representatives of UNFPA for contributing to the formulation of a United Nations country strategy note should be reflected in their performance appraisals. By the same token, UNFPA should prepare and train its representatives to take on the additional responsibilities and accountability that decentralization entailed. While the decentralization of decision-making within UNFPA should be applauded, it was its headquarters which should be held accountable for ensuring that the process was carried out in a responsible manner.

76. Monitoring and evaluation were important parts of an accountability structure. UNFPA should ensure that project plans included sufficient detail to permit cogent monitoring. It should also ensure that there were adequate

(Ms. Volkoff, Canada)

resources in the field to carry out effective monitoring. One tool of proper monitoring was a sound financial reporting system, and UNFPA should ensure that improvements in its procedures and systems for reporting all project expenditures were completed as quickly as possible. Her Government recommended to the Council the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the independent evaluation on those matters.

77. Ms. DRZEWIENIECKA (Poland) said that UNFPA had an important role to play in finding solutions to the complex population problems of the contemporary world at both the international and the regional level. In that connection, the World Plan of Action, the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, which confirmed the importance of population problems in the development process, the reports on the state of the world's population and specialized population publications represented a useful contribution by UNFPA.

78. The Government of Poland valued its cooperation with UNFPA and was constantly seeking to expand the scope of that cooperation. Technical support and financial assistance from UNFPA had been instrumental in the preparation of the 1993-1996 UNFPA country programme for Poland, in cooperation with relevant Polish ministries and other institutions. Her Government looked forward to further support from UNFPA and other relevant international organizations for the completion of the programme and its early acceptance and execution.

79. For the past several years, Poland had resolutely set about transforming its political, economic and social system. The success of that effort would have a positive impact beyond the borders of Poland. Successes, however, had been tempered by certain set-backs, including the deteriorating state of health of the Polish population, the increase in mortality, particularly that of men in their productive years, and soaring unemployment.

80. Poland increasingly faced health problems associated with the advent of modernization. Consequently, the needs of the population for medical assistance were expanding much more rapidly than were the resources to meet those needs. Infectious diseases of the digestive system and tuberculosis were major health problems, and the morbidity rate from viral hepatitis was higher than in other European countries. The number of AIDS cases was also on the rise, and increasingly health problems were associated with the process of the ageing of society and the increase in the number of disabled people.

81. Poland had consolidated its population growth at a level lower than the replacement rate. In 1992, it had recorded its lowest birth and fertility rates since the Second World War. At the same time, since 1990, its active population had been increasing markedly, unlike the trend in the other European countries, a phenomenon which had certain implications for a labour market that was experiencing the difficulties associated with the economic transformation under way. In recent years, the labour market in Poland had been characterized by massive unemployment, particularly among women and young people. Especially alarming was the phenomenon of long-term unemployment.

82. The complexity of those problems created severe pressures towards migration and constituted a threat to the process of economic transformation not only in Poland, but also in other countries of Eastern and Central Europe which faced

(Ms. Drzewieniecka, Poland)

the same problems. It was therefore essential to promote international cooperation in all those areas which could help to prevent the spread of those negative trends.

83. Cooperation with UNFPA was crucial to overcoming population problems, and her Government looked forward to continued and expanded cooperation with UNFPA in the future. Poland, which had scientific research expertise in the field of population, was ready to share its own experiences with other countries, through UNFPA.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 1 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

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United Nations Population Fund (continued)

(a) Annual report of the Executive Director for 1992 and programme-level activities (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (continued)

(a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/1993/29 (Parts I, II and III), DP/1993/30, DP/1993/31, DP/1993/32 and Corr.1, DP/1993/33, DP/1993/34 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. ZIMMERMANN (United States of America) said that his country recognized the critical role of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in addressing urgent needs for population assistance and had worked closely with UNFPA over the years to help meet those needs. The preparations for the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo had reminded all those participating of the demographic diversity between and among regions of the world and had helped focus attention on the complex interrelationships between population, economic growth and sustainable development. Great challenges lay ahead and Governments, in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, must work together towards solutions. The United States was determined to help lead and be a part of the global effort to address population problems. President Clinton understood the negative impact of rapid population growth on women's health and empowerment, the environment, and prospects for sustainable economic development, and was committed to moving population to the forefront of his country's international priorities. Since assuming office, he had taken a number of important steps to revitalize United States population assistance efforts, including lifting restrictions that had prohibited some family planning organizations from receiving United States funding because of abortion-related activities, ordering a reorganization of the State Department to give greater visibility to the population issue and calling for a restructuring of United States foreign aid programmes to promote development more effectively. He had also requested a $100 million increase in United States population assistance for fiscal year 1994.

2. The United States had already announced its desire to contribute to UNFPA. It understood the importance of forging a strong partnership with international population agencies. Like other Member States, it based its family planning efforts on voluntarism. When a nation's programme consistently ignored the right of couples and individuals to determine freely the size of their families, the international community must condemn such abuses of basic human rights and do everything in its power to stop them.

3. UNFPA had been supporting activities in China for 13 years and must now decide whether its efforts had significantly improved voluntarism in China and, indeed, whether it was possible for UNFPA to have such an impact on the China programme. The questions of whether UNFPA had been an agent of progress and whether, if it had not, it could be, must be addressed.

4. Recent reports showed a dramatic drop in China's fertility rate, suggesting that coercion might have been used to achieve those extraordinary declines. Those reports had heightened the concern and frustration throughout the United States Government that China might still be employing coercion in its programme.

(Mr. Zimmermann, United States)

His delegation called on all members and international organizations to condemn such abuses wherever they might occur.

5. The challenges for the future were formidable, but the international community knew what needed to be done and how to do it. What was required at present was unanimity of purpose and the political will to do what was needed to ensure a bright future for coming generations.

6. Ms. AL AWADHI (Kuwait) expressed appreciation to UNFPA for its support of the role of women in development and family planning, and for its financing of projects involving women and population. With regard to UNFPA activities deriving from the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, and in particular, studies on the impact of environmental degradation on the work and health of women, her delegation hoped that UNFPA would be able to assist Kuwait in following up studies by the Environmental Protection Council of Kuwait on the current and future impact on health of the environmental pollution arising from the burning by the Iraqi aggressors of over 700 oil wells.

7. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) said that his delegation had been pleased to see that the Fund had continued to make notable progress in 1992, had vigorously promoted the concept of family planning as a basic human right and had supported activities strengthening its capacity to deal with issues concerning women, population and development. The Fund had also continued to strengthen its programme implementation, focusing on strategic programming and improving its effectiveness in delivering high quality technical assistance. His delegation had also been pleased to note the increase in pledges as compared with 1991 as well as the increase in the percentage of women in UNFPA's professional staff. At the same time, it regretted the decline in the project expenditure rate.

8. His delegation fully supported the recommendation of the Executive Director concerning the approval of the 1994-1995 budget and her four recommendations on the Work Plan for 1994-1997, and was glad to see that a high proportion of regular resources would continue to be allocated to country activities. His delegation also supported all of the 15 country programmes submitted for approval to the Council.

9. Noting that data for Europe and the Arab countries were still combined, he suggested that the Secretariat should circulate information on Europe separately so that the Council could have a clearer picture of UNFPA's presence in Europe, where participation in the Fund's programmes and activities was increasing following the structural changes in Eastern Europe. His delegation reiterated its proposal that country activities should be broken down by geographic region rather than by UNFPA divisions at headquarters; it would welcome the establishment in the near future of a Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in the UNFPA secretariat.

10. His Government attached great importance to its cooperation with UNFPA in the current period of transition to a market economy. Its reconsideration of the former regime's national planning strategy had opened the way to fruitful cooperation between Romania and the Fund. The UNFPA project for assistance on

(Mr. Popescu, Romania)

family planning signed in 1990 had been successfully completed in 1992, and more assistance in family planning was expected from the Fund in various sectors.

11. In January 1992, Romania had, with the help of UNFPA, undertaken its first full population and housing census in 15 years, the preliminary results of which had already been published. The Government was seriously concerned at the decline in the total fertility rate and wished to prepare a survey on family planning and fertility as soon as possible; it hoped to receive UNFPA assistance in that connection.

12. His country appreciated the assistance given by UNFPA to the research projects of the Economic Commission for Europe, which had been helpful to it, and would like the Fund's support to be continued.

13. Despite the difficulties it was facing in the current period of transition, his Government had steadily increased its voluntary contribution to UNFPA beginning with 1991 and that contribution was now seven times greater than in 1991.

14. Mr. CHEN Jian (China) said that his delegation agreed with the analysis made by the Executive Director of the world population situation and wished to express its satisfaction with UNFPA's activities and achievements during 1992.

15. The world was at present witnessing an annual net increase of 93 million in world population, which was worrisome for all. It was clear from the Executive Director's report that it was mostly in developing countries that economic development was adversely affected by population issues; that situation deserved close attention from the international community. His delegation hoped that the International Conference on Population and Development would enable the international community to reach consensus on the relationship between population and development and to map out a feasible and practical international strategy. It was its hope that all countries, especially the developed ones, would do their best to increase the resources made available for population activities.

16. His Government attached great importance to the issues of population, environment and development and had designated family planning and environmental protection as fundamental state policies. Although China had made notable progress in family planning and population control, the situation there remained challenging due inter alia to the country's huge population, lack of arable land and poor economic foundation. Since China had to feed 22 per cent of the world's population with only 7 per cent of the world's arable land, it had no choice but to practice family planning and population control. That required great sacrifice by the Chinese people, both for its own sake and for that of mankind as a whole, and its efforts deserved the understanding and support of the international community.

17. It was the Chinese Government's policy to integrate governmental guidance with the wishes of the people in implementing family planning programmes. Accordingly, its family planning programme had been made case-specific and its national goals in that area had been formulated through legislative processes

(Mr. Chen Jian, China)

and were then explained through extensive publicity so as to ensure that adequate information was available to people to make their own decisions. That it encouraged one child per couple did not mean that a couple could have only one child. Rural families who had real difficulties could have a second child and in ethnic rural areas farmers could have up to three or four children per family.

18. China's family planning programme had been implemented mainly through publicity and education, the distribution of contraceptives and the provision of family planning services. It had also adopted measures to enhance women's social status, to protect women's and children's rights, to improve education and health services, maternal and child health care and the social welfare and security system and to assist the development of poverty areas. After more than 20 years of ceaseless efforts, the excessive population growth in China had been brought under control, alleviating the pressure on socio-economic development. The birth rate of China's population in 1992 had fallen to 18.24 per thousand, although those figures by no means reflected a stable trend. The infant and maternal mortality rates had also been brought down substantially and average life expectancy had increased.

19. Although the Government had consistently opposed the use of coercion for implementing its family planning policy, given the huge size of the country, it was almost inevitable that some unpleasant things would occur. The Government had been making great efforts to educate the staff of the programmes in order to eliminate such practices. It would be happy to discuss its policies and programmes with those who wished to learn more about them and would welcome visits to China for the same purpose. It firmly rejected the irresponsible and unfounded allegations that had been made by the United States representative.

20. Over the past decade, China had effectively cooperated with UNFPA and part of the credit for its achievements in family planning and population control must go to the Fund. His delegation appreciated UNFPA's technical assistance to China and hoped that such cooperation would be further strengthened and developed in the future.

21. Mr. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba) said that while the importance of UNFPA's work was universally recognized, its funds were clearly inadequate. As a result measures which could otherwise have been carried out immediately were having to be postponed. His delegation looked forward to the International Conference on Population and Development and hoped that by the time it was held the Fund's current financial difficulties would have been overcome.

22. Mr. MOYE (United Kingdom) endorsed the statement made that morning by Denmark on behalf of the European Community, and supported the views expressed by the Canadian representative. Its approach to population questions was based on the desire to extend peoples's choices concerning their own fertility and it joined with the United States in condemning coercion in any population programme anywhere in the world. It believed that once population services were available and people could choose when and how many children they wished to have, population increase would begin to slow dramatically. It had increased its bilateral aid for population activities by 60 per cent over the past three years

(Mr. Moye, United Kingdom)

and had doubled the number of countries in which it had major population programmes. Its assistance was delivered through a variety of channels and it believed that in order to ensure that those investments achieved maximum impact it might be necessary to alter the emphasis placed on each channel after assessing the value-for-money obtained through each of them.

23. UNFPA had a leading role to play in helping countries establish good quality reproductive health services and formulate their own population policies. Aid resources were, however, limited, and UNFPA, like all other multilateral aid agencies, must demonstrate that it was making good use of those resources. UNFPA must therefore continually examine the quality and effectiveness of its activities and the value-for-money obtained by its donors. In determining their future assistance to UNFPA, his delegation believed that donors would wish to examine the Fund's objectives, whether those objectives reflected changing needs, opportunities and constraints, how effectively those objectives were being met and whether the resources made available were being used efficiently.

24. The major focus of UNFPA activities must be at the country level, but, given the variable quality of country programmes, overall standards needed to be improved. Good country programmes must be based on sound analysis of the population problems in close consultation with other donors, the development of appropriate strategies to deal with those problems, with due attention to institutional resources and related constraints, well-designed population programmes and effective implementation. The successor support cost arrangements should help improve implementation, but more should be done to diversify the Fund's sources of expertise, through greater involvement of non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Field offices had an important role to play in promoting in-country coordination of population assistance, although all parties concerned must be willing to cooperate.

25. The immediate priority should be to respond to unmet demand for family planning. Country programmes must give top priority to the development of family planning services and access to contraceptives. He welcomed the increased resources allocated to family planning in 1992 which now represented almost 50 per cent of total allocations, and hoped that the trend would continue.

26. In 1992 his country had engaged consultants to carry out a cost-efficiency study of UNFPA activities in two countries. Some of the concerns expressed in that study were also raised in the recent multi-donor evaluation report, particularly the lack of strategic focus and the fact that activities were spread too thinly over too many countries in too many programme sectors. The report recommended fewer, larger and higher quality projects with potentially greater impact and advocated greater rigour in examining funding requests. The Council should examine the report's findings carefully and consider how its recommendations could be implemented.

27. He noted the Executive Director's call for increased donor support and expressed the hope that, despite competing pressures for scarce resources, donors would follow his country's example in giving priority to population

(Mr. Moye, United Kingdom)

assistance. However, UNFPA must realize that it was not the only channel for providing population assistance and that, ultimately, its ability to attract increased resources would be determined by the quality of its own performance. For its part, his delegation was fully committed to working closely with UNFPA to help increase the effectiveness and efficiency of its assistance.

28. Mr. CART (Switzerland) said that while his country intended to increase its contribution to the Fund, even though it was having to reduce its contributions to other activities, it believed that UNFPA should be more selective in its priorities. It should recognize that the population question needed to be seen as part of a global development policy; it should emphasize the role of local non-governmental organizations in the field of information, education and communication activities; and, it should restrict the funding of concrete activities, particularly the provision of equipment, to least developed countries and pilot projects, since other agencies were better placed to provide funding of that kind.

29. In order to respond more effectively to local conditions and requirements, it was vital to decentralize UNFPA activities. With that in view, field offices should be given greater responsibilities and their staff expanded while the staff at Headquarters should be reduced. With that in view, better training was required in order to promote a culture of enterprise and innovation and overcome bureaucratic inertia. In that connection, he endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Canada concerning accountability.

30. The recent UNFPA evaluation had been highly critical of the role of United Nations specialized agencies in project implementation and he hoped that the frank remarks made on that subject would result in appropriate measures being taken to remedy the matter. The evaluation had also stressed the need for greater reliance on the activities of local non-governmental organizations, which had a crucial role to play in helping to promote democratic participation and in providing access to grass-roots communities. It was true that not all such organizations were properly representative, but field offices were in a position to provide relevant information on that question.

31. His delegation had taken an active part in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development and he hoped that the spirit of cooperation which had prevailed would continue and that a new and innovative programme of action could be developed.

32. Mr. BROUWERS (Netherlands), after endorsing the statement made by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that his delegation welcomed the way in which UNFPA was addressing the complex population problem at all the various levels. He appreciated the focus on choice in reproductive matters as a basic human right, which had also been central to the discussions held during the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development and should serve as the starting-point for any action in that field.

33. It was clear that UNFPA intended to focus its family planning activities on adolescents and he fully agreed that information, education and communication in

(Mr. Brouwers, Netherlands)

that field was vital. In his own country, that approach had been successful in achieving a very low rate of adolescent pregnancies and abortions and, while appreciating that circumstances were very different in developing countries, particularly with regard to the availability of contraceptives, he was eager to know what measures UNFPA intended to take to make family planning methods available to adolescents and how the focus on unmarried youngsters would fit in with the Fund's stated intention of concentrating on the integration of family planning in traditional maternal and child health care.

34. Turning to regional and country-level activities, he felt that, while the specific strategy for sub-Saharan Africa was still valid, special attention should be given to the region, with particular reference to gender issues. There was a growing commitment on the part of African Governments to address the position and status of women and, despite some positive developments, much remained to be done, particularly in the field of recruiting women to positions of responsibility in the field of family planning and population policy formulation. Capacity-building in the area of policy formulation was also a priority and he would welcome information on the planned transfer to Africa of a training course under the Global Programme of Training in Population and Development, which his Government co-financed. With regard to the republics of central Asia, his Government was currently considering the possibility of providing financial support for the projects drawn up on the basis of the UNFPA needs assessment mission. With regard to the role of UNFPA in China, his Government strongly condemned coercion in family-planning practices and considered it vital that UNFPA should remain active in the country, both as an advocate of free and informed choice and responsible parenthood and as an opponent of any kind of coercion. The Governing Council should continue to monitor UNFPA activities in China very closely.

35. His delegation welcomed the efforts made by UNFPA to streamline its activities in the context of the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199 and stressed the value of the recent multi-donor evaluation, which contained a number of highly relevant observations and recommendations.

36. One area in which improved United Nations coordination was of vital importance was HIV/AIDS activities. His delegation had co-sponsored the resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly requesting the Director-General of the World Health Organization to undertake a study on a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, which would be a vital step in the process of coordinating United Nations activities in that area. The AIDS pandemic required a multisectoral approach in which every United Nations organization had a role to play and he urged UNFPA to contribute to the study.

37. Mr. WIBISONO (Indonesia) welcomed the innovative and far-reaching ideas put forward by the Executive Director, including the expansion of family planning services and the availability of contraceptives, as well as the emphasis on requirements such as data collection and analysis, policy formulation and advocacy in support of women. The proposals for improving field capacity and financing were indicative of the commitment of UNFPA to maintaining the organization's delivery capability and improving its efficiency. His delegation supported efforts to strengthen the resident coordinator system as a way of

(Mr. Wibisono, Indonesia)

improving delivery and simplifying procedure, while helping host Governments to coordinate their activities with United Nations efforts, in line with General Assembly resolution 47/199.

38. On the question of resources, his delegation supported the appeal made by the Executive Director to developing and developed countries to strive to mobilize their peace dividend in order to help achieve sustainable development, a goal that could not be achieved while rapid population growth and extreme poverty persisted.

39. In his country, development was generally understood as meaning the development of the full human being, as a member of the family and of society, and as a citizen. All citizens therefore had certain rights and responsibilities under the laws governing population. Legislation on population growth and the creation of a prosperous family had been enacted in 1992 in preparation for the implementation of a second long-term development programme due to begin in 1994.

40. With regard to the International Conference on Population and Development, he stressed the importance attached to the Conference by the Non-Aligned Movement, which had reaffirmed the value of exchanging information and experience on the implementation of population policies and programmes in their respective countries. A ministerial meeting was due to be held in his country before the end of the year, with a view to strengthening cooperation in the field and formulating guidelines for the preparation of the Conference by the non-aligned countries.

41. Mr. Rysinski (Poland) took the Chair.

42. Mr. BLANK (Germany) said that awareness of resource constraints had grown over the past years, as had the belief that available resources should be used as effectively as possible not only in order to best serve the recipients of the assistance, but also to enable UNFPA to attract more contributions. His Government had increased its 1993 contribution by 4.6 per cent to 43.2 million marks. The evaluation prepared by his Government and the Governments of Finland and Canada, had recommended that UNFPA and the Governing Council should review the Fund's overall strategy regarding resource allocation. The Governing Council should spell out its expectations and priorities, specifically for technical support and advice versus funding. Allocations should be governed by the expected return on the investment, so that more resources flowed to countries in which investments were likely to yield the greatest benefits. Factors such as readiness for greater population programming efforts and government attitudes and practices towards such programming should be taken into consideration.

43. Some countries lacked strategic focus and had too many projects which had marginal impact on long-term population goals. Although the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) process had improved the planning of country programmes, it had not provided specific strategic directions. UNFPA should develop its own internal country strategy to achieve better focused country level programming and fewer but larger projects.

(Mr. Blank, Germany)

44. The Fund and the Governing Council should review their relationship since the evaluation had shown that the Governing Council acted sometimes as a constraint on UNFPA by demanding extensive reporting and being involved in detailed decision-making at the country programme level. Trends to concentrate inter-country activities, increase Government execution, decrease execution through specialized agencies and increase the number of women professionals should receive the continuing support of the Governing Council.

45. His Government would continue to support the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, and it planned to sponsor a seminar on population policy and AIDS and its effects on women and family planning.

46. Mr. HUSAIN (Observer for Bangladesh) said that as his country ranked ninth in terms of population and had the highest population density in the world, it had a special interest in population issues. As the current Chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Bangladesh was committed to promoting population programmes in the region, including a multisectoral programme representing a total outlay of over $600 million. Population programmes in his country had greatly benefited from the participation of UNFPA and other multilateral and bilateral donor partners.

47. An integrated approach was needed to effectively tackle population, environmental and women's issues and poverty alleviation. Resources needed to keep pace with increasing demands. His country was concerned that 1993 contributions to UNFPA had stagnated at the 1992 level of $238 million, and hoped that donor countries would contribute generously to UNFPA, so that it could continue its current programme level and increase it in the future. While allocations to priority countries had increased to 74.2 per cent in 1992, UNFPA should address the fact that project allocations had decreased from $212 million in 1991 to $163.6 million in 1992. While his country fully supported the restructuring process at the United Nations, that process should not be undertaken at the expense of UNFPA's capacity to respond to the critical needs of the developing countries.

48. It was hoped that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 would gain further momentum in the future. UNFPA's field office capacity should be increased and further decentralization, including programme support and delegation of authority to the field offices, would be highly appropriate. Information, education and communication needed to be strengthened so as to have greater impact.

49. Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan) said that because of its unique non-political nature, only UNFPA could assist developing countries in strategy development. UNFPA had a fundamental role to play in the promotion of technology, technical expertise and advice. Her country was committed to population issues and had incorporated the outlines of a population strategy in its eighth five-year plan.

50. While her delegation strongly supported the principle of non-coercion in population matters, it agreed with the Chinese delegation that given the vast size of that country, incidents might occur that were not condoned by the

(Ms. Janjua, Pakistan)

Government. UNFPA could supplement the efforts of the Chinese Government by providing technical expertise and advice.

51. The multi-donor evaluation was commendable but should be examined in detail by the capitals with the full participation of recipient countries. In addition, it should be reviewed once the Cairo Conference had taken place.

52. Mr. SOH (Republic of Korea) said that his country had continued to work on world population issues and would continue to support UNFPA efforts in the future.

53. Mr. JANHA (Gambia) said that countries in Africa were committed to addressing population issues, as demonstrated by the Third African Population Conference on "Population, Family and Sustainable Development", held in Dakar, Senegal, in December 1992. Country programmes, including those of his country, stressed the importance of integrating family planning services into general health services. Those country programmes also emphasized information, education and communication which were needed to change attitudes in order for people to see the linkages between population growth, natural resource management and poverty. Donor intervention should be directed towards supporting existing programmes, which had been established through extensive consultations at all levels, especially the grass-roots level. While developed countries emphasized the need to strengthen NGOs, in fact, capacity at the grass-roots level needed to be expanded so that people would learn to manage their own lives.

54. Mr. VAN ARENDONK (Deputy Executive Director (Programme), UNFPA), introducing the progress report on UNFPA successor support cost arrangements (DP/1993/32), said that following the Governing Council's meeting in May 1992, UNFPA had convened two meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force to discuss issues relating to the new technical support services (TSS) system.

55. As of May 1993, 109 out of 136 posts due to be filled in 1992 had been encumbered, 80 at Country Support Team (CST) offices and 29 at headquarters. All the CSTs had become operational and host country agreements had been signed, or were under negotiation. Orientation workshops had been completed for seven of the eight CSTs, for a total of 73 advisers. A similar workshop for the CST for the Arab States would be held in the third quarter of 1993. It was clear that the CSTs were ready and willing to develop innovative strategies to respond to changing needs in the population field.

56. The TSS system had already made considerable achievements. A systematic, integrated, inter-disciplinary way of responding to requests for technical assistance was gradually evolving as Governments, through the UNFPA country field offices, identified technical backstopping needs on the basis of comprehensive population programmes; a key element in the success of those arrangements was comprehensive planning by all concerned. Team building was proceeding rapidly, focusing on national population programmes as the basis for coordinating assistance, and reinforced by advisers at all stages of work. Improved mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating population programmes were being established through greater involvement of CSTs in the whole programming

(Mr. Van Arendonk)

process, under the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) process. The accountability of the Executive Director was being enhanced by transparency in how advisers were recruited and utilized; UNFPA was ensuring that only the most competent professionals were appointed. Steps continued to be taken to help increase each country's self-reliance in population matters, through the use of national expertise, organized training activities and the maintenance of updated rosters of national consultants.

57. UNFPA had been able to surmount the initial obstacles in implementing the new arrangements, thanks to the collaboration of partner agencies. The major constraints had been the initial uncertainty as to exactly how the new system would function, which had resulted in inadequate technical backstopping and incomplete CST work plans; administrative and bureaucratic problems, which had delayed the transfer of incumbents and equipment to CST sites as well as the appointment of new advisers; and the reduction of the TSS budget from $20.1 million to $15.7 million because of UNFPA's financial situation, resulting in delays in the establishment of some CST offices and difficulties in estimating expenditures for the period 1993 to 1995.

58. Steps were being taken to improve implementation of the TSS arrangements. In 1993, UNFPA proposed to start an annual evaluation of the performance of all CST advisers and agency specialists and coordinators; that evaluation would also make it possible to determine whether the distribution of fields of competence and of specialists responded to country needs.

59. The TSS arrangements placed UNFPA at the forefront in implementing General Assembly resolution 47/199. The team approach enabled the Fund to coordinate assistance on the basis of comprehensive national population programmes. Since the CSTs were located at eight different sites providing coverage of regions and subregions, the TSS system supported the decentralization process and brought technical assistance and backstopping much closer to countries. It responded to the urgent need to build the necessary capacity to undertake national execution by providing support services at the field level.

60. Mr. SINGH (Director, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA), introducing the report reviewing the Fund's experience in implementing the priority country system (DP/1993/33) said that the system had been operational since 1977 and had proved its value to the Fund in targeting resources to countries that had the most serious population problems and the greatest need for external assistance. UNFPA had concluded that the process, criteria and thresholds established in 1988, in Governing Council decision 88/34 A, paragraph 4, continued to be the most viable method to identify priority countries for UNFPA assistance. Although developing countries as a group had made considerable progress in the areas measured by the indicators used, UNFPA did not believe it advisable to modify the threshold levels as that would jeopardize priority assistance to a large number of countries which had made some progress but continued to need international assistance.

61. UNFPA had continued to concentrate its country programming funds in the priority countries as called for by the Governing Council in decision 88/34 A. In relative terms, the Fund had allocated approximately 75 per cent of country

(Mr. Singh)

programme resources to priority countries in 1992 and it hoped to reach the target of 80 per cent by 1994. In each priority country, the strategic policies and approaches were developed through the PRSD exercise and formed the basis for the formulation and implementation of UNFPA country programmes.

62. The TSS arrangement would benefit priority countries greatly as it provided for a flexible and differentiated response to the unique needs of individual countries. The eight regionally based CSTs would be able to provide multidisciplinary technical advice within the framework of a comprehensive programme approach.

63. The report proposed the introduction of a more dynamic system of priority countries, with revisions every two years; the Fund would then be able to adjust its programmes accordingly. Application of the latest economic, demographic and literacy data to the current criteria and thresholds had resulted in 58 countries qualifying for priority assistance; eight countries had been added to the previous list, and five countries no longer qualified as priority countries.

64. Ms. VOLKOFF (Canada) said that the independent evaluation that had been undertaken in the early stages of TSS had given a mixed review to execution and technical backstopping by United Nations agencies and had cited United Nations agency execution as a constraint on the success of UNFPA's programmes. Her delegation was pleased to note that an evaluation of TSS was planned for late 1993; looking ahead to the 1995 TSS progress report, it underscored its concerns regarding the cost of the system and the need to demonstrate value for money.

65. Her delegation had serious concerns regarding the priority country system. It recognized the need for such a system and for the use of a mixture of criteria, but felt that the current system was unsatisfactory; there was little variation in the profile of assistance across work plan categories between priority and non-priority countries, and no clearly discernible link between priority designation and size of country programme.

66. She asked whether the current criteria were being properly applied to allocation and programming decisions, or whether other factors external to the stated criteria were coming into play; if so, they should be brought into the open. Secondly, she felt that there were other critical factors that should be taken into account when priority country status was conferred, including the size and scope of national and other donor activity in a country, the state and stage of population programming, and the Government's preparedness to take on population issues from a policy point of view.

67. Given those concerns, Canada was reluctant to accept the priority country system as it stood and requested that the findings of the independent evaluation and related recommendations should form the basis of a study by an informal group of UNFPA staff and selected Council members in 1994, which would prepare a report with recommendations on an updated allocations system for UNFPA.

68. Mr. GUO Xianzhi (China) said that it was too early to review the role and benefits of the new TSS system. However, attempts must be made to further rationalize the relationship between CSTs, the specialized agency acting as

(Mr. Guo Xianzhi, China)

executing agency and the UNFPA field office; in particular, there must be a clear division of labour and responsibility between CSTs and the specialized agencies in the execution of individual projects.

69. One of the central goals of the TSS system was to strengthen national self-reliance in recipient countries; UNFPA should therefore make priority use of national expertise and national institutions, in accordance with the relevant resolutions.

70. The priority country system was a fairly good solution to the problem of resource allocation and had helped UNFPA achieve the goal of providing assistance to countries which had the most urgent population problems. The current criteria were reasonable and should be maintained; in addition, his delegation hoped that UNFPA would endeavour to implement the programme strategies highlighted in document DP/1993/33, and would increase the quality of technical assistance and achieve the goal of using 80 per cent of funds for priority countries.

71. Mr. MOYE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was pleased that the TSS system was being established. It shared UNFPA's concerns about the delays in recruitment and its belief that insufficient emphasis had been given to MCH/FP posts.

72. He requested UNFPA to comment on the performance of the Inter-Agency Task Force; indicate what countries could do to help implement the TSS system; and explain how the CSTs' performance with respect to the development of national expertise would be assessed.

73. His delegation endorsed the comments made by the representative of Canada regarding the priority country system. It was somewhat disappointed that the system had not changed significantly, since it seemed to restrict UNFPA in its mode of operation by requiring that 80 per cent of resources be allocated to priority countries, even though some priority countries had a limited absorptive capacity.

74. He asked whether UNFPA felt that the current system helped or hindered its efforts to improve the quality of assistance; whether the priority criteria should be adjusted to incorporate those non-priority countries which, for specifiable reasons, appeared to warrant assistance; and whether, recognizing current differentials between regions, it would be more realistic to abandon the global target for priority countries and instead establish separate regional targets.

75. Mrs. TROOSTER (Netherlands) said that the Netherlands considered the new TSS system to be an important development in UNFPA's efforts to improve technical assistance at the country level. It regretted the obstacles which had resulted in a delay in forming the CSTs. Moreover, her delegation would appreciate clarification on the slow recruitment of experts on women and population, and the low percentage of female team members.

(Mrs. Trooster, Netherlands)

76. Her delegation supported the recommendation that country directors and UNFPA representatives should more actively inform Governments about the new technical assistance system, but did not feel that that should lead to forcing TSS services upon Governments. UNFPA must realize that CSTs had their limitations with regard to their operational capacity; its focus should lie in exploiting existing national capacity. In that connection, she noted the recommendation made in the evaluation carried out on behalf of Canada, Finland and Germany that UNFPA's strategic position should vary according to the specific country situation and that inter-country activities should be adequately linked to the practical needs of country programmes.

77. The priority country system was a valuable way of concentrating the Fund's limited resources in the developing countries that had the most serious population problems. However, the criteria used seemed to focus primarily on the need to lower growth and fertility rates, ignoring one of the most important aspects of the population question, namely, the need to promote and safeguard reproductive health through the provision of high quality family planning services. Her delegation therefore requested UNFPA to study the possibility of integrating the maternal mortality rate as an additional criterion for determining priority status.

78. Her delegation believed that UNFPA's global mandate should not be altered, but agreed that the Fund should try to achieve greater strategic focus in its country programming and should bear in mind its own comparative advantage as a multilateral organization, taking into account the activities of other donors and the growing input of non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

79. She requested clarification of the indication in paragraph 3 of document DP/1993/33 that UNFPA would consider providing assistance to the countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States for which UNDP had allocated indicative planning figures. She also asked whether the countries concerned had been screened for priority status.

80. Mr. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba) said that the TSS system should improve the technical level of consultancy and reduce the costs borne by Governments in the payment of fees to consultants.

81. His delegation understood the need for the priority country system but felt that the Fund should remain accessible to all countries because population problems affected all countries in varying degrees.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.